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Arab-Israeli Talks

Arab Chief Delegates Hold News Conference

JN1912172092 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Head of Arab delegations to the bilateral peace talks held a joint news conference in Washington last night during which they discussed the results of the recent round of peace talks and Israel's decision to expel hundreds of Palestinian citizens from their land to Lebanon.

Our correspondent in Washington, Muhannad al-Khatib, attended the news conference and provided us with the following report:

[Begin recording] Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation, said that this round was useful but no definite progress was achieved along the Jordanian-Israeli track. He said: We hope that the next round will be better. We also hope that the Israeli side will accept and understand the Jordanian side's interest in formulating the agenda so that we can clarify all matters and remove obstacles in the path of negotiations.

Dr. al-Majali added that Israel's decision to expel more than 400 Palestinians from the occupied territories is a big blow to the peace process. He expressed his hope that the UN Security Council will respond to this decision by adopting the same measures as in similar cases before.

Dr. al-Majali said that any progress in the peace process cannot be achieved without giving the Palestinian people their right to establish their independent state on the soil of their land. Otherwise, the circle of violence will continue, posing a real threat to the peace process.

Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation, said that so far Israel is not clearly committed to a willingness to withdraw from the territories it occupied in 1967. He said that the Israeli Government's practices on the ground contradict the spirit of the peace process and that the decision to expel the Palestinians is the most cogent proof of this.

Al-'Allaf added: After 14 months of direct talks with Israel, I believe that the Arab parties are nearly convinced that Israel does not want peace and that it is not serious or sincere about peace.

Dr. Sa'ib 'Uraygat, member of the Palestinian delegation to the talks, said that a Palestinian delegation, headed by Faysal al-Husaynī, met with U.S. President George Bush yesterday. He noted that al-Husaynī delivered to the U.S. President a letter dealing with Jerusalem's state of affairs and the Palestinian side's adherence to finding a solution to the Jerusalem issue. The letter also deals with the issue of resuming dialogue between the PLO and the United States, and the recent deportations.

Dr. 'Uraygat added that during his meeting with the Palestinian delegation, the U.S. President reiterated his government's denunciation of the deportation decision and told the delegation that he is consulting with the U.S. representative to the United Nations on this issue.

Sukayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation, said his country strongly protests Israel's measure of expelling Palestinians from territories it does not own originally to the territories of another country.

In another development, Edward Djerejian, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, said that it is wrong for the Palestinian delegation to withdraw from the talks as a response to the deportation order. He added that the peace process is the only way to get out of the circle of violence from which the region is suffering. [end recording]

Inter-Arab Affairs

Qatar, Saudi Arabia Resolve Border Dispute

Leaders Meet With Mubarak

NC1912134092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Medina, 19 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak; King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques; and Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani met this afternoon at Taybah Palace, in Medina, to discuss the course of Gulf cooperation and to clear the atmosphere between Qatar and Saudi Arabia in the interest of the two fraternal countries and peoples.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani later joined the meeting.

Joint Statement Issued

LD2012193492 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] A joint statement:

On this day, 20 December, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques and monarch of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, and His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, the amir of the State of Qatar, met in the presence of His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of Egypt in Medina.

Out of their conviction of the need for bolstering the bonds of common destiny and close ties between the two countries and the two fraternal peoples, and out of their concern to give prominence to the spirit of fraternity and solidarity between the Saudi Arabian Kingdom and the State of Qatar within the framework of higher pan-Arab interests, the leaders of the three countries reviewed the recent developments between the two fraternal countries, the Saudi Arabian Kingdom and the State of Qatar.

Out of a belief in the need for resolving the tensions dispute between the two countries, agreement has been reached on the following:

1. In implementation of the border agreement concluded between the Saudi Arabian Kingdom and the State of Qatar on 4 December 1965, it was agreed to append a map signed by the two countries showing the final border line to which both countries shall be committed.

2. A joint Saudi-Qatari committee will be formed, in accordance with article 5 of the agreement, to be entrusted with the task of implementing the 1965 agreement with all its provisions and articles and the contents of this joint statement. This committee will embark on placing the border marks in accordance with the appended map and shall have the right to seek, for the purpose of its work, the help of a survey company to be agreed upon in accordance with article 3 of the agreement. The committee will complete the drawing up of a final map to be signed by the two countries and to be considered an indivisible part of the 1965 agreement.

3. The committee will complete its aforementioned mission within one year from the date of the signing of this joint statement.

This statement has been written and signed in Medina on 20 December. It was written in three identical originals.

Mubarak, Qatari Amir Depart

LD2012204992 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Excerpt] His Excellency Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, left Medina this evening, following a visit to the Kingdom.

King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, may God safeguard him, bade them farewell at the Amir Muhammad Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Airport. His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, also saw them off. [passage omitted]

GCC Foreign Ministers Meet in Abu Dhabi

JN1912095792 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 Dec (WAKH)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Abu Dhabi this evening to participate in the 45th ministerial meeting which will complete preparations for the 13th Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] summit in Abu Dhabi on Monday [21 December].

Earlier today, the foreign ministers of Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Oman concluded a meeting in which they reviewed the recommendations taken during the 45th ministerial meeting held in Abu Dhabi on 24 and 25 November.

Approve Summit Agenda

JN1912100892 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], received at the Presidential Office at noon today the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] who participated in the 45th ministerial meeting to complete preparations for the 13th GCC summit. The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, Abu Dhabi heir apparent and deputy supreme commander of the Armed Forces.

The GCC foreign ministers approved all political, defense, and economic topics on the agenda of the 13th GCC summit during the meeting which ended a short while ago at the Abu Dhabi Intercontinental Hotel.
End Meeting, Depart

JN1912115892 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1140 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 19 Dec (WAKH)—The GCC foreign ministers left Abu Dhabi today after participating in the 45th ministerial meeting to complete preparations for the 13th GCC summit. [passage omitted]

GCC Secretary General Remarks on Gulf Relations

NC2112111292 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0630 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Telephone interview with 'Abdallah Bishara, secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council in Abu Dhabi, by Ramadan Hussyn in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Hussyn] Several border disputes have recently surfaced among Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] members. Iran has also occupied three United Arab Emirates [UAE] islands, Abu Musa, Tunb al-Kubra, and Tunb al-Sughra. How do you comment on these developments?

[Bishara] Concerning the second part of your question, the GCC made a decision in September to support all the measures taken by the UAE. The GCC applauds the UAE's wisdom in seeking a peaceful solution to the crisis that is in line with good-neighborliness, international law, and the UN Charter. You may know that the GCC has voiced a definite opinion in this regard.

Concerning inter-Gulf relations, we believe that Gulf leaders, with their wisdom and experience, are capable of containing these differences. Differences within the same family can always occur, but we tend to talk things

out and find a peaceful way of solving them. Actually, I am very optimistic, particularly following the signing of the [Saudi-Qatari] agreement in Medina.

[Passuyn] Another important question is about the Damascus Declaration. Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that the Damascus Declaration is faltering and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shar' said that the declaration is dead. As Gulf officials, how do you see the Damascus Declaration? Will you discuss it at this summit and what future does this declaration have?

[Bishara] We believe that the Damascus Declaration is full of vitality and life. The Damascus Declaration has many sides. The political side calls for continuous coordination and consultations, which are taking place. The foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration countries will meet in Abu Dhabi in the first quarter of 1993. There is a security side to the declaration, which will be approached through bilateral channels. There is an economic cooperation side as well, which is proceeding vigorously and will further improve. Media-related, cultural, and other forms of cooperation are also underway.

The most important thing about the Damascus Declaration is the satisfaction over the kind of relations linking Syria, Egypt, and GCC countries and the confidence that these relations inspire in all of us. These relations are based on respect for each country's sovereignty, noninterference in domestic affairs, appreciation of the particular circumstances of every country, and the resolve to enlarge the scope of common interests. I see the Damascus Declaration as a new Arab order. It involves principles and guidelines that could inspire future Arab cooperation. We are optimistic.

[Passuyn] Thanks.

[Bishara] You are welcome. [passage omitted]

Deportations Called 'Fatal Blow' to Peace

NC1912150492 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has affirmed that Israel's deportation of 418 Palestinians is considered a fatal blow to the peace process and a dangerous setback that requires action by the Arab and peace-loving countries to work on immediately confronting this decision. It also obligates the United Nations and the two cosponsors of the peace conference to make the necessary arrangements to protect the Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories from Israeli oppression. It calls for action to set up international protection inside the occupied Palestinian territories under the supervision of the United Nations to stop the Israeli practices directed against the Palestinian people.

The Arab League secretary general delivered a speech opening the meetings of the Arab seminar on the Arab self-dependent cooperative movement. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid added that the Arab League welcomes the pan-Arab efforts President Husni Mubarak is exerting to unite and gather Arab ranks. He expressed his confidence that the Arab cooperative movement could play a vital role in building the Arab homeland.

League Envoy Goes to Iraq To Discuss Detainees

NC2012141992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1202 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 20 Dec (MENA)—Ambassador Rashid Idris, the personal envoy of Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, left Cairo for Cyprus this morning, where he will board a UN plane to Baghdad at the start of his second tour to secure the release of Kuwaiti detainees in Iraq.

In a pre-departure statement, Idris said he is carrying a message from Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid to Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf concerning his mission in Baghdad and his contacts with Iraqi authorities. He added that he will check their documents on the detainees since accurate information about them is available. This information includes a list of 800 detainees, of which more than 700 are Kuwaitis. There are no Egyptians among this number.

He also said he already had discussed his mission in Baghdad with Iraqi envoy to the Arab League Nabil Najm, who expressed the Iraqi Government's willingness to discuss the issue with complete understanding so that a practical outcome will result that benefits the detainees.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Leadership Holds Meeting in Tunis

Israeli Deportation Discussed

JN1912205192 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] The Palestinian leadership began its meetings in Tunis a short while ago to discuss the situation resulting from Israel's expulsion of hundreds of Palestinians into Lebanon. The discussions will primarily focus on means of confronting Israeli practices on the political level, in terms of solidifying and bolstering the Palestinian position and coordinating with Arab and international parties as well, and on the level of struggle in terms of stepping up the intifadah in the occupied territories and supplying it with all the requirements needed to ensure its continuity and allow it to acquire additional firmness.

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has extended an official invitation to the Hamas Movement, asking it to take part in the Tunis meetings. It should be noted that Ibrahim Ghawshah, spokesman for the Hamas Movement in Jordan, announced tonight his movement's willingness to attend these meetings if it receives an official invitation.

For his part, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, contacted our radio from Tunis and informed us of the following:

[Begin 'Abd-Rabbuh recording] The Palestinian leadership began meetings tonight. Members of the PLO Executive Committee, the speaker of the Palestine National Council, representatives of Palestinian factions, as well as members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, are attending. An official invitation has been extended to the Hamas leadership to attend these meetings. Brother Yasir 'Arafat extended this official invitation today. We hope that representatives of the Hamas Movement leadership will participate in the Palestinian leadership meetings tomorrow. These meetings will discuss means of following up Palestinian efforts on the Arab and international scenes to address the issue of the deportees, to ensure their repatriation as well as the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution issued in this regard. The Palestinian leadership has a plan to follow up efforts in this regard. These meetings will also address the issue of making coordinated and concerted efforts by all anti-occupation forces to confront the escalating campaign of repression and the ironfisted policy currently being pursued inside the occupied territories. [end recording]

DFLP Decides Not To Attend

JN1912210792 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Dawud Talhami, member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] Political Bureau, has said in Damascus that the DFLP faction led by Nayif Hawatmah will not attend Palestinian leadership meetings in Tunis. Talhami told AFP that the PLO has decided to suspend Palestinian participation in the peace talks in the aftermath of the expulsion of over 400 Palestinians from the occupied territories into Lebanon, whereas we demand complete withdrawal from the talks, as he put it.

Meanwhile, in Tunis, Yasir 'Arafat has sent urgent messages to the UN Security Council's permanent members demanding implementation of the UN resolutions which provide for the dispatch of observers to the occupied territories, as confrontations became bloody this afternoon in the wake of the killing of six Palestinians by the Israeli Army.

All 'Opposition' Groups Invited

NC2012132092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1132 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] Tunis, 20 Dec (MENA)—The Tunisian newspaper AL-SABAH today reports that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat has decided to redraft the coalition within the PLO by inviting all the Palestinian opposition organizations, including Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command [PFLP-GC], to attend the Palestinian leadership meetings. The meetings opened here last night to deal with the new Israeli onslaught against the Palestinian territories and people with a view to evicting them to the Arab countries.

Citing informed Palestinian sources, the newspaper notes that if the return of some opposition organizations to the PLO fold is successful, this necessarily will require a swift meeting of the Palestine National Council to chart the new shape of the factions' representation within the PLO. The seats of some Palestinian organizations—such as the PFLP-GC and al-Sa'iqah—in the Palestine National Council, the Central Council, and the PLO Executive Committee are vacant.

Concerning Hamas, the sources noted that several meetings were held with its leaders to discuss its representation in the PLO's institutions. Hamas, however, demanded a high percentage of representation, something which the other organizations termed unrealistic.

Hamas To Participate

JN2012143592 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Ramdah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, today sent a written message to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, confirming its participation in the Tunis expanded meeting with a high-level delegation comprising four of its leaders, including 'Imad al- 'Alami, Hamas representative in Tehran.

Muhammad Nazzal, Hamas representative in Jordan, said the delegation, which will leave for Tunis by next Wednesday [23 December], will be led by Musa Abu-Marzuq, chairman of the Hamas Political Bureau, and will include in its membership al-'Alami and Nazzal in addition to Hamas official spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah.

Nazzal noted that Hamas had set a condition for its participation, namely, that an official invitation be extended to it bearing 'Arafat's signature, and that happened yesterday. Nazzal added that during the Tunis meeting, Hamas will present its stand on the recent developments and its concepts regarding the issue of the deportees, and will give its views on the conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and their intifadah.

This will be the first meeting between Hamas and the PLO since the beginning of the Arab-Israeli negotiations in Madrid in October 1991. Hamas is strongly opposed to these negotiations.

Groups Issue Statements Condemning Expulsion

Hamas Vows Retaliation

NC1712221192 Paris AFP in English 2150 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Jerusalem, Dec 17 (AFP)—The Palestinian fundamentalist group Hamas on Thursday denounced Israel's expulsion of 383 Palestinians as "total war" and said it would retaliate with attacks on Israeli civilians.

"In our previous attacks we targeted soldiers only," said Hamas, which has killed of five Israeli troops since December 7, and whose abduction and murder of an Israeli border guard on Sunday triggered Israel's decision to order the expulsions.

"But if this decision (the deportations) is carried out, every Zionist in Palestine will be a legitimate target of our operations," it said in a statement written before the deportation was authorised by the supreme court and the handcuffed and blindfolded Palestinians were driven over the border into Lebanon.

"We killed Toledano when we were certain that the enemy did not want to satisfy our demand but was only playing for time," Hamas said of Sergeant Major Nissim Toledano.

"And yet our message was clear: Set free the shaykh and we will release the soldier," it added.

Hamas had seized Toledano in the Israeli town of Lod and threatened to kill him unless Israel released their jailed leader, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, who is serving a life sentence for murder and other offences.

"We have entered a new stage in the struggle against an enemy who only understands the language of force," Hamas said, adding that violence would not end until Israel pulled out from the occupied territories.

10 Factions Issue Statement

JN2012204192 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] The 10 [Damascus-based] Palestinian forces have issued a political statement on the enemy deportation of 415 struggles of our people. The statement says:

The follow-up committee of the 10 Palestinian factions has met to discuss developments in the occupied homeland, where the masses of the blessed intifadah inaugurated its tenth year with a series of activities, strikes, confrontations, and qualitative operations against the administrative self-rule conspiracy, which constitutes the most dangerous link in the chain of conspiracies against our people's cause.

The enemy government, which practices a policy of oppression, repression, arrests, breaking bones, demolishing houses, and confiscating lands against our people and their cause, follows an iron-fist policy in an attempt to put out the flames of the blessed intifadah. Our people's intifadah, however, is continuing with the resolve of their struggelers and mujahidin. The operations carried out by our valiant people have caused further confusion for the racist Zionist enemy, which resorted to another of its terroristic practices: The policy of collective expulsion, the transfer—a policy which is based on the enemy's racist and aggressive nature and which is considered the most dangerous policy against our Palestinian cause and our people's existence since the 5 June 1967 aggression. It is an old policy of the Zionist entity which is being revived now at the hands of the government of Rabin, the murderer of Palestinian children and the one who orders the breaking of their bones.

The Arab-Zionist conflict is over existence, not borders. The Zionist enemy leadership's expulsion of our people from their homeland and emptying our homeland of struggelers and mujahidin is built on the constant strategic support the enemy receives from the United States and on the existence of a Palestinian trend, represented by the Tunis leadership of the PLO with its involvement in the liquidationist talks currently conducted within the context of the Madrid-Washington course and its participation in the multilateral talks.

The Zionist enemy has deported a large number of struggelers and mujahidin by taking advantage of the umbrella of negotiations with the Tunis leadership of the PLO. That leadership, which has provided the cover for the Jordanian-Zionist agreement, still insists on continuing the negotiations with the enemy. At the same time, it tries to take advantage of the pain of the struggling deportees. A few days ago, it extended an invitation for an expanded meeting of the PLO leadership in Tunis under the pretext of discussing the deportation. Its true objective is to discuss the course of settlement and fragment the alliance between the 10 forces that constitute a rejectionist force that opposes the Zionist-U.S. settlement and its disgraceful course.

The enemy has persisted with its savage, racist policy and deviance from all norms and laws, particularly those related to human rights. The enemy also declined to commit itself to the implementation of any resolution issued by the UN Security Council or the General Assembly. The Zionist enemy further enjoys violating the Geneva Conventions and breaking the bones of children. Despite all this, the enemy receives the backing and support of the leader of world imperialism, the United States. We hope the world community will not allow the latest UN Security Council resolution concerning the return of the deportees to their homeland and houses to end up like the other UN resolutions, which were cast aside by the Zionist enemy, which did not find anyone to force it to abide by them.

We urge the world community and the liberation movements of the world to pressure the enemy into returning the deportees to their houses and homeland. We also urge the Arab and Islamic states to exert pressure and demand the return of the deportees to their houses and

to shoulder their responsibility toward the Arab-Zionist conflict, including the showing of effective solidarity, opening of crossings, and extending support to the valiant intifadah in the occupied homeland.

We praise the Lebanese Government's decision not to allow the deportees to enter Lebanese territory, because such a decision foils the Zionist policy of collective expulsion. We also urge all civilian states to take a decisive stand to foil the Zionist policy of deportation and expulsion.

The 10 Palestinian forces affirm their continuous struggle in the occupied territories through the brave intifadah in order to abort the plot of the administrative self-rule and stress the unity of the Palestinian land and people and their resistance to the Madrid-Washington liquidationist line. They call on the Tunis [Palestinian] leadership and the Palestinian negotiating delegation to effect an immediate withdrawal from the negotiations and refrain from offering a cover for any Arab regime bent on concluding liquidationist deals with this enemy.

While highly valuing anyone who has hurled a stone, used a knife, fired a bullet at the enemy, or expressed solidarity and extended assistance to the intifadah and our blessed revolution from the fraternal and friendly forces, the 10 Palestinian forces announce the following activities:

1. Declaring Wednesday, 23 December a day of comprehensive strike and popular anger in occupied Palestine and a day of comprehensive strike in Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon in protest against the Israeli enemy policy of emptying the Palestinian homeland and expelling the Palestinian people.

2. Continuing expressions of anger by the Palestinian people, wherever they may be, both inside and outside the occupied territories, against the enemy's racist policy, particularly the policy of deportations, through popular activities, demonstrations, and so on, and by submitting memos to regional and international organizations.

3. Appealing to all Arab, Islamic, and friendly forces to use all forums to exercise pressure on the enemy to force it to stop its racist and repressive policies and to compel it to implement UN Security Council Resolution 799.

We hail all the deported border smugglers and the struggle of the blessed intifadah, and send greetings of pride to our steadfast people in the occupied homeland and to all the steadfast detainees behind bars.

We also praise the masses of the Arab people of Lebanon and their nationalist and Islamic forces which rushed to effect solidarity with the deportees.

We pledge to our people and to their glorious intifadah that we will continue our struggle until the liberation of Palestine, the whole of Palestine, from the filth of the Zionist occupation in order that our people will return to their homeland, proud and glorious.

Revolution until complete liberation. Glory and immortality to our pure martyrs.

[Signed] The 10 Palestinian forces

PNSF Issues Statement

JN1812210192 (Clamorous) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Excerpts] The 10 Palestinian factions stressed that the UN Security Council resolutions are binding—in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention, Article 49—with regard to the return of Palestinian deportees to their homeland.

The 10 Palestinian factions urged the negotiating team to withdraw from the negotiations, and said suspending the talks should not only be linked with rescinding the decision on deportations, but should also be linked with the entire negotiating process. [sentence as heard]

The 10 Palestinian factions called for an Arab position that shows solidarity with the Palestinian people, and denounced the U.S. position which has reservations on a draft resolution presented by the nonaligned countries concerning the point which speaks about a UN representative in the region to follow up on the return of deportees to their homeland.

The 10 Palestinian factions called for staging a general strike in Palestine, and called on the Lebanese and Palestinian masses to support the deportees so that they can return from the border area to Palestine.

In a press statement, the Palestinian National Salvation Front [PNSF] condemned the Zionist government's decision of mass deportation of hundreds of Palestinian struggles. The PNSF statement outlined the dangerous aspects of this decision, which clearly indicates that there is no difference between the Labor and Likud, as both are two faces of the same coin. If shen is like Shamir; they both want and work for expelling Palestinians from their homeland to facilitate Judaizing all of Palestine by emptying it of its people.

While condemning this racist decision adopted by the Zionist authorities, the PNSF urged the masses of the militant Palestinian Arab people, both inside and outside the occupied territory, to confront the Zionist occupation's repressive policy—the policy of oppression and deportation, and the policy of imprisoning thousands of Palestinian struggles in Zionist jails. It also urges the heroic masses of our people to escalate and entrench the blessed intifadah so that it will spread to every city, village, camp, and suburb in Palestine until the realization of the objectives for which the blessed intifadah erupted.

The PNSF believes that this criminal, racist decision exposes the falsehood of the allegations which wagered on moderation in the Labor Party and the current government. It asks the [PLO] leadership in Tunis to

immediately withdraw from the negotiations of capitulation and concession—the concessions it is making through negotiations with the Zionist enemy. It urges it to abandon these policies that only harm the Palestinian national struggle and the Palestinian cause. It also urges the Tunis leadership to commit itself again to the constants of the Palestinian national struggle, and believes that the continuation of this leadership's policy of concession and relinquishment through negotiations with the Zionist enemy, despite its repressive measures, is harmonious with the Zionist enemy's measures. This situation leads to the destruction of the contemporary Palestinian national struggle.

The PNSF is confident that the marvelous steadfastness of our great people, inside and outside the occupied homeland, can abort the Zionist enemy's plot to Judaize the Palestinian land. It is also confident that our people will attain victory. [passage omitted]

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Palestine Popular Struggle Front issued a joint statement on the Zionist government's decision to deport more than 400 of our people's sons. The statement said that this dangerous decision, adopted by the enemy government, constitutes a new war against our people and their national cause by using the current negotiations as a cover for this dangerous design.

The statement called on the sons of our Arab people and all Arab countries to shoulder their historical responsibilities during this delicate time facing our Palestinian Arab people. It called on international and humanitarian forces and organizations to quickly move to stop the deportation policy and the Zionist policy of aggression, and to support the struggle of our people. [passage omitted]

Executive Committee Statement

LD1812224492 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee issued a statement following the barbaric decision taken by the enemy's government to deport approximately 400 Palestinians from the occupied land. The full text of the statement now follows:

The decision of Rabin's government to expell around 400 Palestinians translates the continuation of the government's policy of terrorism and mass torture, which blatantly violates international laws and the Geneva Convention that forbids the policy of deportation.

Rabin's government took this fascist decision despite broad international intervention by the U.S. Administration, the EC, Russia, and Egypt. In this way it stressed its determination to go on rejecting international legitimacy and imposing the law of terrorism and oppression as its sole way of dealing with our people inside and outside the occupied land.

The PLO views this terrorist step as a new qualitative escalation that is being pursued by Rabin's government against our people and militants. Our people will confront this escalation with more steadfastness, confrontation, and resolve to face up to the occupation and its criminal methods until the occupation is expelled from Palestinian territories and until our people are able to implement their right to return to their homeland and enjoy self- determination and independence.

The deportation decision will lead to a halt to the peace process. Negotiations cannot be resumed until the international community forces Israel to respect the Geneva Convention. The PLO rejects the continuation of negotiations in the shadow of mass punishment, terrorism, and deportation. The responsibility of the international community lies in making Israel respect the resolutions of international legitimacy. The PLO will call for an urgent meeting of the Arab cordon states during the coming days, to take a unified stance in response to the policy of Rabin's government that is leading to the failure of the peace process. It will also urge the UN Security Council to take appropriate measures to bring an end to these serious violations, and guarantee the return of the deportees from the sons of our people to their land and homeland.

Intifadah Leadership 'Supplement'

JN1812191092 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Dec 92

["Supplement" to Intifadah Call No. 90 issued by the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah on 17 December]

[Text] Masses of our heroic people—those who have carried the torch of the blessed intifadah and baptized it with blood and suffering as a genuine, irreversible option that will never be abandoned before the Zionist occupation is swept away from our Palestinian land and the legitimate national rights of our Palestinian people—above all their right to self-determination and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, under their sole legitimate representative, the PLO—are assured.

Heroes of the intifadah: In a further escalation of its repressive practices, the Zionist enemy yesterday made a decision under which hundreds of our people and their families are being deported, thus marking the start of a new phase aimed at undermining our people's steadfastness and snuffing out their just struggle.

These measures testify to the bankruptcy, failure, and indecisiveness of the enemy. They also signify a barbaric and savage line that underscores the fascist and ugly nature of this racist, expansionist system that protests a hollow concern for the peace process.

The Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah [UNLI] takes an extremely serious view of this Israeli escalation, which is inspired by the transfer policies. It

calls on the United Nations, particularly the European nations, to intervene without delay to stop these crimes being committed against our defenseless people and to take such measures that would provide international protection for the Palestinian people under occupation, as called for by the Fourth Geneva Convention.

These insane measures have helped unmask Rabin and his government, and have demonstrated that all their protestations of concern for peace are little more than a flimsy front hiding [words indistinct] built on attempts to uproot the Palestinian people from their land and eradicate their physical and moral existence. The UNLI urges the Palestinian leadership to rethink Palestinian participation in the peace negotiations, which Israel is trying to use as a threadbare means to cover up its repressive policies against our people.

The UNLI holds the Israeli Government—which made this decision—headed by Yitzhaq Rabin—the architect of the policy of repression, crushing of bones, and transfer [preceding word in English]—fully responsible for the implementation of this shortsighted, stupid decision. Our people will not stand idle, and will never allow this serious crime, which was perpetrated against strugglers from the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas—a crime which actually threatens the future of our people on their territory—to go without a decisive retaliation.

Masses of the intifadah: The UNLI calls on all the masses of our people to reply to this crime by escalating confrontations against the occupation forces in all areas of Palestinian territory, and to turn this territory into fire and a volcano of struggle [words indistinct]. The UNLI calls for the following:

—Saturday, 19 December 1992, shall be a day of a comprehensive strike to protest the transfer crime against the sons of our people. This should be accompanied by mammoth confrontations against the occupation troops, each from his own position.

—The UNLI calls on the strike forces to escalate confrontations with the occupation forces. The coming 10 days shall be considered days of fire and indignation against the occupation.

—Popular solidarity activities shall be carried out, and sit- ins and mammoth popular demonstrations and marches shall be staged in all parts of the state of Palestine.

—Nationalist forces are called upon to hold press conferences to explain the serious dimensions and repercussions of the Israeli decision.

—The UNLI calls on institutions and popular forces to hold immediate meetings with foreign consuls and to hold contacts with the United Nations and the Security Council to cancel these measures and to underline the principle of international protection for our people under occupation.

—The UNLI calls on the Arab and Islamic states to shoulder their responsibilities toward our people and to hold a meeting for their foreign ministers to discuss this serious Israeli escalation, take the necessary measures to confront it, and to provide means of support for the steadfastness of our people under occupation.

Long live our people's intifadah, disgrace and ignominy to the enemy and its henchmen. And soon will the unjust assailants know what vicissitudes their affairs will take. [Koranic verses]

[Signed] UNLI, the state of Palestine, 17 December 1992

Islamic Jihad Policy Statement

NC2012075192 Al-Tahalik Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] The Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine has issued a statement emphasizing that the deportation policy will not safeguard the Zionist entity's security; rather; it will light the fuse of wrath against that entity, its security, and army and stimulate further jihad and resistance. The statement adds that this policy will trigger further abductions of the Zionist enemy's soldiers and officers so that they might be swapped for deportees and detainees.

The statement adds: We will keep up our jihad and legitimate struggle, making the land shake under the feet of the usurping occupier until it is crushed totally. All our Palestinian lands will turn into battlefields for fighting the enemy until it pulls out unconditionally.

The movement affirmed in its statement that the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations does not represent the Palestinian people or their aspiration for liberation and independence. It is high time for that delegation to withdraw from the negotiations, it stressed. It is high time for the party that wagers on the U.S.-Zionist option to return to the Palestinian people's choice of resistance and jihad.

The movement appealed to international opinion, human rights advocates, and all conscientious people to raise their voices and to stop the horrendous crime that unmasks the racist reality of the Zionist movement and entity.

Joint PLO-Hamas Appeal Noted

NC2012125692 Paris AFP in English 1200 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] Jerusalem, Dec 20 (AFP) - The PLO and its rival Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] on Sunday issued their first ever joint statement calling on their combat units to set the "land on fire" underneath the Israelis over the deportation of Palestinians to Lebanon.

The pro-PLO unified leadership of the intifadah and the radical fundamentalist Hamas movement called in a joint communique for a switch from strikes to an "escalation of the jihad (holy war) and resistance to oppression and occupation."

They called on their combat units to "unify their action to set the land on fire under the feet of the occupiers."

There should be permanent "sit-ins" outside offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC], particular its Jerusalem headquarters.

The ICRC provided aid to the 415 deportees, who are stranded in a no-man's land in southern Lebanon between the Israeli and Lebanese armies.

Hamas and PLO praised the Lebanese Government's refusal to turn back the 415 deported Palestinians, and welcomed the international outcry over the expulsions.

Rivalry between the PLO, which supports the peace process, and Hamas, which is opposed to it, boiled over into violence earlier this year.

Fatah Command in Lebanon Cited

NC2012135492 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] The Fatah Movement command in Lebanon issued a statement today in which it said that the deportation decision and the vindictive Israeli policy will lead to an escalation in the armed struggle, which is an option provided for in UN laws and is one of the peoples' rights to regain their national legitimate rights.

In its statement, Fatah called for a united Palestinian stand, for overcoming formal differences, and for holding an open dialogue between the Palestinian factions because this would safeguard the intifadah and lead to the establishment of the Palestinian state.

The statement voiced support for the Lebanese Government's stand, which confronts the Israeli plan.

'Arafat Calls For Greater Resistance

LD1912211192 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Brothers, brother leader President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has addressed a message to the masses of the Palestinian people inside the occupied homeland, calling on them to step up their resistance to the Israeli occupation forces who carried out the crime of expelling around 400 Palestinian citizens.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar said that the crime committed by the Rabin government is a substantive escalation of the acts of terrorism and repression against the masses of our people. It was a transfer and mass deportation operation and represented a provocative intimidation of the world community. It revealed the real face of the policy of this government, despite the feverish campaigns under way to beautify its image and its policies.

He added that the PLO has made extensive international contacts to prevent implementation of the expulsion decision. These contacts had come together at all international levels in order for the world community to move to force Israel to allow the deportees to return their homes and their homeland.

Brother president Abu'-Ammar urged the Palestinian masses to close ranks and consolidate national unity among all groups, forces, and trends to confront the fascist Israeli escalation. He said that national unity is the strong fortress on which all occupation intrigue will be destroyed. It is the guarantee of steadfastness, he added, in seeking to achieve the objectives of the intifadah. Fatah, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Hamas, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Arab Liberation Front, the Palestine Liberation Front, the Palestine Communist Party, the Palestine Popular Struggle Front, Jihad, and all the other Palestinian groups are all united in a solid bloc against the occupier, he asserted.

He pointed out that the Palestinian leadership has issued instructions to the Palestinian delegation not to attend the remaining negotiating sessions. A Palestinian leadership meeting will be held today to discuss developments and formulate Palestinian moves, he said.

The Palestinian president warned that the Israeli action has dealt the peace process a fatal blow and has proved to the world—to the two sponsors of the peace process, in particular—that Israel does not want peace and only wants to consolidate its occupation of Palestinian and Arab lands. Indeed, it has uncovered the ugly face of this Zionist government, he said.

Sends Request to Lebanon

LD1812182092 Algiers Voice of Palestine 1702 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has sent a message to the Lebanese Government on the issue of the Palestinians deported to Lebanon. The message was conveyed by brother Shafiq al-Hut, member of the PLO Executive Committee and PLO representative to Lebanon.

Brother al-Hut has stated that the message included an official Palestinian request to the Lebanese Government not to abandon its stance; that is, to refuse Palestinian deportees entry to Lebanese territory in order to prevent Israel from achieving its aim in carrying out these deportations. He also stressed the Palestinian leadership's appreciation of the official Lebanese stance of refusing to accept those who are being dragged from their homes and homeland by an unjust decision in defiance of international law.

Brother al-Hut asserted that brother President and leader Abu-'Ammar also urged the Lebanese Government to maintain its stance. He said that the Palestinian

leadership will do its utmost, at the Arab and international levels, to find a just solution and secure the return of the deportees to their homeland.

Also, following the unjust Zionist decision, brother President and leader Abu-'Ammar has sent a message to the Jordanian Government. Brother Tayib 'Abd-al-Rahim, ambassador of the State of Palestine to Jordan, has conveyed the message to Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir.

'Abd-Rabbuh on Deportees, Talks, Clinton Stand

LD1812175492 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Interview with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO's information bureau, by correspondent Mounir Bin Mostafa in Tunis on 18 December—recorded]

[Text] [Mostafa] Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, in view of Israel's determination to carry out its decision to expel Palestinians, does the PLO intend to continue its commitment to the peace process, which has not led to any results despite reaching an eighth round?

['Abd-Rabbuh] We are committed to the peace process. However, in light of the Israeli measure we have decided to suspend our participation in the peace talks because talks cannot be held under terrorism, mass expulsions, and the repressive actions of the Israeli occupation in the occupied territories. Therefore, we have informed all the international sides that a resumption of the peace process requires Israel's commitment to respecting the Fourth Geneva Accord, returning the deportees, and respecting international law and legitimacy, in order for the process to be continued.

[Mostafa] Do you expect the international community to exercise the necessary pressure to force Israel, on behalf of international legitimacy, to revoke its decision?

['Abd-Rabbuh] We have asked for an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council to be convened. A draft resolution is being submitted to the meeting by the Arab bloc and by the Nonaligned countries calling for the expulsion order to be revoked, condemning these repressive Israeli measures, and calling for the setting up of an international committee to supervise the practical implementation of the return of the deportees to their homeland. We will see how to define our next step in light of the stands of the international sides concerned vis-a-vis the draft resolution and its subsequent implementation.

[Mostafa] Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, what was the U.S. stand in its capacity as one of the sponsors of peace in the region at the meeting that brought together yesterday Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, and U.S. President George Bush?

['Abd-Rabbuh] President Bush told our Palestinian delegation that the United States is opposed to the expulsion policy and that it has asked Israel to revoke the expulsion order. However, we are hoping that the U.S. stand will be reflected on the UN Security Council when the vote on the draft resolution is taken and in exerting the pressure required to implement the draft resolution to ensure the return of the deportees and abolition of mass punishment as an official policy followed by the Zionist occupation authorities.

On the other hand, we really appreciate the stand of President- elect Clinton, who has denounced the expulsion order, has asked Israel to revoke the order, and has called for the political process to be continued. We are hoping that this stand will have practical repercussions for the ending of that Zionist terrorist policy and for the expulsion order to be revoked and the deportees returned.

[Mostafa] Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, is there a united Arab stand on this issue?

['Abd-Rabbuh] We have called for an urgent meeting of the five ring countries—Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine—to discuss the issue and examine ways in which Arabs can retaliate against this serious step by Israel and to discuss the adoption of a united Arab stand by suspending our participation in the negotiations until Israel is made to respect the principles of political process and international law. We hope the Arab meeting will be convened in the next few days.

We are also contacting all sisterly Arab states to convene a plenary Arab meeting at foreign minister level within the framework of the Arab League to discuss the serious developments taking place in the occupied Palestinian territories and the overall settlement process in the Middle East region.

Comments on Talks, UN Resolutions

JN1912181592 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Report by Tunis correspondent Muhammad Karayshan]

[Text] Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the PLO Political Department, has welcomed UN Security Council Resolution 799 on Israel's deportation of more than 400 Palestinian activists from the occupied territory. 'Abd-Rabbuh said in a statement in Tunis today that the resolution's strong condemnation should not remain mere ink on paper, adding that what is required is compelling Israel to implement the Security Council resolution, respect the Fourth Geneva Convention, and begin returning all the deported Palestinians to their homes as the resolution stipulates.

'Abd-Rabbuh noted that implementing the latest UN Security Council resolution and implementing the Fourth Geneva Convention will provide a suitable atmosphere for continuing the peace process.

Asked by a Radio Monte Carlo correspondent whether this means that the PLO's return to the negotiating table

is linked to the implementation of the UN resolution. 'Abd-Rabbuh answered in the affirmative.

'Abd-Rabbuh said that the PLO has not yet received a response from the Hamas Movement concerning its attendance at the Palestinian leadership meeting this evening but its joining the meeting at a later time is not ruled out, as he put it.

Interviewed on Deportations

TA2012110592 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 20 Dec 92 p 1

[Report by Mikhal Sela' on 18 December telephone interview with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Executive Committee Information Department, in Tunis]

[Text] In deporting hundreds of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists in one night, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin set a dangerous precedent and lost all his credit on the Palestinian street. These remarks were made to DAVAR on 18 December by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Executive Committee's Information Department, and a member of the PLO team—together with Yasir 'Arafat and Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas]—steering the peace process.

Alarmed by the public opinion poll published by the Israeli media, according to which 91 percent of the public support the mass deportation decision, 'Abd-Rabbuh personally telephoned DAVAR to make sure that his and the Palestinian political leadership's concern directly reach Israeli policymakers. 'Abd-Rabbuh asked whether it is possible that the deportation is so widely supported and if there are no opposing voices, and he wanted to understand what made the Meretz ministers support the deportation decision.

In the conversation, 'Abd-Rabbuh said: The PLO rejects the deportation altogether, especially when the deportation is as massive as the one carried out last week. "Such a step only serves the extremists on both sides. Rabin's remark that the deportation will strengthen the peace supporters is not true."

"People like Ari'el Sharon and Rabbi Kahana have been very outspoken about their dream to deport hundreds of Palestinians, and here comes Rabin and does it for them. This is a grave precedent. I believe Rabin lost the credit he has gained on the Palestinian street."

'Abd-Rabbuh believes that the Israeli Government's use of the argument that this harsh step was called for as an act against the extremists is deplorable. "We did not see Israel taking such steps against Israeli extremists after the Temple Mount incident, although it knew who the perpetrators were."

On the political level, it will be very difficult to continue the peace negotiations in the shadow of this collective punishment. "It is simply impossible. It is tantamount to a blow to the head. No one on the street or in the leadership can accept such a move."

In response to the remark that it has been claimed in Israel that the deportation will help those taking part in and supporting the peace process, 'Abd-Rabbuh said: "Absolutely not! There is only one way if Rabin wants to help us: He should give Elyaqim Rubinstein different instructions for the next round of talks."

According to 'Abd-Rabbuh, the Israeli offers, raised unofficially in the seventh round of talks and officially and in writing in the eighth, indicate that Israel does not aim at making substantial progress in the process. "They presented in writing the offer to divide authority over the land into three parts. This means in practice that the military government would sustain its power, except for several fields for which the Civil Administration would be responsible. Such an offer is not a key to quick progress."

"There are political means of weakening the Hamas power," he said. "If you want to help the process, open a direct channel of communication with the PLO—especially since there are many in the Israeli administration, including cabinet ministers, who have called for a dialogue with Tunis. The only way to aid the moderate elements is political. Handing down collective punishments, even if they apply to extreme elements, will only bring us to a dead end and will make the negotiations further lose on the popular support."

'Abd-Rabbuh expressed his surprise at the lack of correct estimates of the reactions such a step could bring. "It is as if they did not know what the situation was." "The reactions to a collective punishment in general, and deportation in particular, cross political boundaries. The deportation signals that Israel is not serious in its peace intentions. How can Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi return to Gaza now? What will he tell the public there? And if he returns, they will not let him leave again for the continuation of the talks!"

The deportation and the manner in which it was executed has placed all the parties in a new and an embarrassing position. "The only choice Rabin has left for us is not to continue the negotiations. I absolutely do not see a possibility of continuing the talks under the current circumstances."

In response to my question whether the road to the continuation of the talks is now closed, 'Abd-Rabbuh said: "No, the road is not finally closed. In political life, quick decisions may be made when they are needed. There is a way out: The deportees have to be returned, and clear and serious political steps should be taken for the Palestinians to see Israel's honest intention to attain an arrangement. If such steps are not taken, the Israeli Government will find itself bound and gagged with a strengthened right wing," 'Abd-Rabbuh said.

Bethlehem Mayor Comments on Deportation Decision

TA1712191892 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Interview with Bethlehem Mayor Elyas Frayj by Fayiz 'Umar; in Bethlehem on 17 December—recorded]

[Text] [Frayj] The principle of deportation is wrong. If a person is accused, his guilt must be proved in court. Every person is innocent until he is convicted by an official court. Israel has used deportation since 1967. What has it achieved? Nothing. Deportation complicates and aggravates matters further and creates tension and a reaction. Israel should know that without a fundamental solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the cycle of events will continue.

['Umar] Will this affect the negotiations in Washington—the Israeli Government's decision and...

[Frayj, interrupting] Undoubtedly, the Israeli Government's decision will have bad repercussions across all sectors of the Palestinian people, without exception.

['Umar] So in the wake of this decision, do you expect the negotiating process to stop?

[Frayj] This is an issue which one cannot answer in haste. We should await the events. Matters should be studied and assessed because we support the peace process. The cycles of violence and action and counteraction must be stopped. Israel should change its approach in dealing with the residents. We are here and Israel is here. The Palestinian and Israeli people have been destined to live together in this holy land. Each has the right to live in freedom, security, and safety, enjoy freedom and independence, and have its own government and administration. We should live—Palestine and Israel—with an agreement of goodneighbourly relations and treatment.

Delegate Predicts Violent Reaction to Ruling

TA1712175192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Palestinian delegate Dr. Zakariya al-Agha believes that the government's decision to deport a large number of Palestinians constitutes a death blow to the peace process. Dr. al-Agha told correspondent Moti Amir that tonight's court ruling is yet another blow to the Palestinians, saying that it is now clear to them that even the Israeli judicial system supports an operation that contradicts international law. While it is hard to predict the effect this decision will have on the territories, he said that for every action there is a reaction and that the reaction will undoubtedly be violent.

Fatah Envoy in Cairo on UN Resolution

NC1912145892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA)—Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah's representative in Cairo, today asked the Israeli Government to implement quickly the Security Council resolution on immediately returning the Palestinian deportees and adhering to international legitimacy and the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Al-Qidrah told journalists today that Israel aims to destroy the peace process. He said: This was confirmed by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin himself when he said that the Palestinian boycott of the bilateral negotiations was unacceptable and that the Israeli stand was very clear during the bilateral talks in Washington.

Zuhdi al-Qidrah called on the international community to move quickly to set up international protection for the Palestinian people and guarantee that Israel implement the Fourth Geneva Convention.

He affirmed that the Palestinian masses now stand in one rank to confront the occupation. All the factions—be they Fatah, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Hamas, or others—stand together as one body in confronting the occupation.

He noted that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat called on the masses of the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories to escalate the resistance in confronting the Israeli occupation authorities who are committing the crime of deportation. He said 'Arafat also called for bolstering national unity among all factions, forces, and currents to confront the fascist Israeli escalation.

Condemns Khan Yunus 'Massacre'

NC2012152892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1426 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 20 Dec (MENA)—Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah Movement representative in Cairo, has strongly condemned the massacre committed by the Israeli forces in Khan Yunus yesterday in which six Palestinians were killed and more than 50 others wounded, most of them seriously, when the Israeli forces indiscriminately used live ammunition against the Palestinian masses.

In a statement to journalists today, al-Qidrah said that this massacre is a new Israeli message to the international community. It is considered flagrant defiance of the United Nations because it occurred after the recent UN Security Council resolution calling on Israel to return the deportees immediately.

Al-Qidrah affirmed that the big powers, particularly the two cosponsors of the peace conference, and the entire international community must act quickly to put an end to the Palestinian people's suffering under the Israeli occupation and as a result of Israel's repressive racist actions.

He referred to the recent Israeli statements threatening further massacres and terrorist actions, particularly the statement made by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin himself that stronger and harsher punishments and measures will be taken. Al-Qidrah asked: What measures are stronger than those currently being employed by Israel in killing Palestinians?

Speaker Denounces Expulsions, Urges Arab Support

JN2012191092 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has denounced Israel's decision to deport around 400 Palestinians from their land. More details in the following report:

At a news conference he held today, PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih urged the Palestinian people, including all their classes and trends, to counter the Israeli decision to deport around 400 Palestinians with close unity so that they can exercise their right to self-determination on their soil. He saluted those deportees for their firmness and steadfastness.

[Begin al-Sa'ih recording] We salute the sisterly Lebanese Government for its stand which refuses to take in these deportees. We also ask all governments near and surrounding Palestine to foil the goals of the Israeli enemy and to refuse to take in the Palestinian deportees, especially in view of such a deportation, which is qualitative in aim and which is unique in terms of its numbers and danger and is a violation of the universal declaration on human rights. Moreover, it is a violation of international law and norms and of the Geneva conventions. [end recording]

Shaykh al-Sa'ih demanded the UN Security Council implement its Resolution 799 and seriously work on applying it and on canceling the deportation decision so that all deportees would return to their homeland. He also called on the international community, the nonaligned states, the European Community, and the United States to seriously and decisively apply the UN Security Council resolution.

Delegate: Participation in Talks Not Suspended

LD2112004892 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Ghassan al-Khatib, member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, told the [Tunisian] weekly AL SABAH today that the Palestinian side had not suspended participation in the negotiations, and that it was awaiting a decision by the PLO, which was meeting in Tunis with some delegation members. The decision was expected to set certain conditions for the resumption of Palestinian participation.

Al-Khatib described the first meeting of members of the delegation, including al-Khatib himself, with U.S. President Bush as serious, with the Palestinian side having the chance to explain the repercussions and significance of the Israeli decision to expel the Palestinians. He said that the Palestinian leadership, which had embarked on a series of decisive meetings in Tunis last Saturday, was required to make decisions based on an evaluation of the matter as a whole, especially in light of the expulsion decision.

Al-Khatib thought that a return to the negotiations would come about only when a guaranteed mechanism could be assured that would bind all sides to implement UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. These resolutions call for relying on UN resolutions to ensure the success of the negotiations and insist on a wider involvement by the world community in order to shoulder its responsibility in forcing Israel to implement Resolution 242.

Algeria

Patriotic Rally Rejects Boudiaf Assassination Findings

LD1912194992 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1645 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Algiers, 19 Dec (KUNA)—Lamine Abderrahman, coordinator of the national secretariat of the Patriotic Rally, announced here today his total rejection of the findings of the investigation into the assassination of Mohamed Boudiaf, the late chairman.

He pointed out that the investigation committee did not carry out the tasks it was charged with, thereby frustrating the Algerian people's hopes. He stressed that the Patriotic Rally will work to reveal the truth about the assassination. He accused the Rally for Culture and Democracy, led by Said Saadi, of working to take over the Patriotic Rally. Said Saadi has denied this on several occasions. Abderrahman added that the Patriotic Rally is being targeted; every time it wants to take a step forward, obstacles are put in its way in an attempt to destroy it. [passage omitted]

Israel's Expulsion of Palestinians Denounced

LD1812133892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] In the wake of Tel Aviv's explusion of hundreds of Palestinians from their homeland, many denouncing reactions have been recorded in the international arena, including the reaction of Algeria. The Algerian Foreign Ministry strongly denounced in a statement issued on 17 December Israel's expulsion of more than 400 Palestinians, and urged the UN Security Council to face up to this situation with firmness and severity. The statement considered the Israeli decision a threat to the course of peace in the Middle East and called on the co-sponsored of the Arab-Israeli negotiations to use all means to stymie the implementation of this decision.

'Arafat Sends Message to State Council Chairman

LD2012165192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] The Palestinian ambassador to Algeria conveyed a message from Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to Higher State Council Chairman Ali Kafi today.

According to a presidential statement, Abu-al-'Iz [Mundhir 'Iz al-Din al-Dajani] handed the message to the director of the Higher State Council office during an audience that took place at the Presidency premises.

Paper Banned, 'Measures' Taken Against Journalists

LD2012010992 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] The Ministry of Culture and Information issued the following statement this evening, in which it announced that the publication of articles aimed at undermining the symbols of the state, which give opportunity to those who attempt to destabilize the country, had forced the minister of culture and information to take protection measures in accordance with the presidential decree number 3244 dated 9 February 1992 that stipulates the declaration of the state of emergency.

In this context, the minister of culture and information decided to ban AL-DJAZAIR AL-YOM paper.

On the other hand, individual measures were taken against two journalists from national radio. One of them was the author of a false item of news, which could be classified as among the group of rumors and falsifications of the truth that was handed to a foreign news agency. The other person is a contractual consular employee.

The minister of culture and information would like to seize this opportunity to call on the media world to show more awareness and respect the measures that govern the state of emergency.

Council Studies 1993 Program; Security Stressed

LD2012234692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] The Higher State Council [HSC] held a meeting today under the chairmanship of Mr. Ali Kafi. The meeting studied the situation in the country and discussed the outlines of its program for 1993. This program is primarily aimed at strengthening the security of the public and the tranquility of citizens, guaranteeing the durability of the state, the republic and pluralistic democracy, and making available the necessary conditions for discharging the work of the state.

These matters will be made clear on 14 January, the anniversary of the founding of the HSC. On the regional level, the HSC studied the latest developments in the Western Sahara issue.

Egypt

Reaction to Israeli Deportation Continues

Envoy To Contact Israel

NC2112131592 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Egypt has once again voiced its rejection of the collective deportation of Palestinians and its resolve to exert active efforts to stop that measure and resolve the issue. Commenting on Israel's deportation of Palestinians, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today said that he instructed Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni to contact the Israeli Government, conduct the necessary consultations, and resolve the situation. Musa said that the recent UN Security Council resolution,

which was passed unanimously in this regard, signals that the entire international community rejects that measure.

'Arafat To Visit To Discuss Deportation

NC2112115392 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1128 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 21 Dec (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Muhammad Subayh, secretary of the Palestine National Council, has stated in an exclusive report to AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat will arrive in Cairo within days to discuss the deportees issue and the role the Palestinians hope Egypt will play to pacify the situation and urge Israel to revoke the deportation decision.

Lawyers Union Condemns Deportation

NC1912205292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA)—The Arab Lawyers' Union secretariat issued a statement today in which it called on the international, legal, and humanitarian organizations, as well as the UN secretary general and the international community, to take action to stop the recent decision by the occupation authorities to deport 418 Palestinian struggles from the occupied territories to southern Lebanon.

In its statement, the Arab Lawyers' Union secretariat called for an emergency session of the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva to look into Israeli violations against the Palestinian people.

The secretariat said that the Security Council's mere issuance of a resolution without specifying the measures to implement it will only lead to continued deportation of the Palestinians, emptying the occupied territories of their active national leaders and aborting the Palestinian intifadah as it enters its sixth year. It will also lead to a loss of the United Nations's credibility because it applies double standards to Third World issues.

The statement said that the deportation decision violates all norms of peace, justice, and international legitimacy.

In its statement, the secretariat called on the popular and Arab forces and governments to express their condemnation and rejection of this crime, to work on stopping this unjust decision, and to take international action to demand international protection for the Palestinian people and enable them to establish their independent state and regain their rights to self-determination and repatriation.

Remark on Avenging Death Noted

NC1812005192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0815 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 18 Dec (MENA)—Cairo newspaper AL-AKHBAR denounces Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's remarks that he will avenge the recent murder of the Israeli policeman by a Palestinian faction and that he will launch a relentless war against this faction. The paper also denounces what it calls the demands of "old-time Israeli terrorist" Ariel Sharon to form an emergency government so that he can contribute his brutal measures in retaliation against those involved in this incident.

In its commentary today, the paper asks: Has anyone in the world seen "such insolence" as that currently demonstrated shamelessly by the Israeli leaders, as well as their outrage at the murder of a single Israeli policeman in an occupied territory? The paper adds: God only knows how many women and children in the West Bank and Gaza this policeman had killed since his commanders dispatched him to the occupied territories to practice shooting and the art of murder against the bodies of the Palestinians.

AL-AKHBAR asks: Are not the Israeli leaders and military commanders ashamed of their threats to avenge the murder of a single policeman when they have killed, and continue to kill hundreds, even thousands of people who are demanding the restoration of their homeland occupied more than 25 years ago? The paper adds that it is a shame that this comes when Rabin is claiming that he seeks to resolve all the problems impeding the peace process in the Middle East, while every day he advances new evidence of the hypocrisy and deceit of the Israeli policy.

Editorials Denounce Decision

NC1912005092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0640 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH writes in its editorial today that the Israeli Government's decision to deport hundreds of Palestinians from the occupied territories is a real threat to the peace process and to the ongoing negotiations between the concerned parties.

It notes the PLO decision to suspend the Palestinian delegation's participation in the eighth round of talks and not to continue with this participation until the international community succeeds in pressuring the Israeli Government to comply with the clauses of the Geneva Convention on the administration of the occupied territories.

The paper goes on to say: Throughout the peace process, Egypt advised the Israeli Government to abide by the principle of land for peace and the international community's resolutions, as this will achieve security and stability for all the peoples of the region. It then refers to Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's call on the Israeli Government to rescind the deportation decision to avoid harming the peace process.

AL-JUMHURIYAH concludes by saying that world public opinion, while condemning the acts of violence,

also condemns in principle the continued Israeli occupation and intransigence and is still hoping that the government of [Israeli Prime Minister] Rabin, which was elected by the Israeli voters to achieve peace, will end those hostile practices and repressions in the occupied territories in order to give the peace process a chance.

For its part, AL-AHRAM writes in its editorial: It is not unusual for Israel to create a storm over the killing of the abducted Israeli soldier. It has exploited this incident to escalate its repressive acts in the occupied territories including the expulsion of hundreds of Palestinians, the distortion of the intifadah's image, the elimination of the world support this intifadah has gained, and the creation of divisions in Palestinian ranks.

The paper adds: Recent events in the occupied territories go further than this because they come when the peace process is clearly faltering one year after the Madrid conference and following the lack of any progress in the eighth round of negotiations.

Concluding its editorial, AL-AHRAM says: While these events are the inevitable result of a sense of despair from the failure of the international community to pressure Israel, they are at the same time a clear indication of the dangers that will result from the failure of the peace process.

Value of UN Resolution Examined

NC2012213892 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 20 Dec 92

[Editorial: "A World That Understands Only the Language of Force"]

[Text] How can human conscience sleep while 418 Palestinians are living in the open in the buffer zone between Israel and Lebanon, buffeted by the snow while the bullets of the occupation forces fly over their heads to discourage them from thinking of returning to their homes?

It is an old scene that we have been seeing since Israel was established. The Zionist gangs used to uproot the Palestinians from their country, forcing them to leave their homes, possessions, and lands and driving them to neighboring countries under a hail of bullets and the threat of terrorism. Thus came into being the problem of the refugees, or the Arabs of the diaspora, which the world has so far failed to settle and which has become a mark of shame weighing down on the conscience of humanity.

Although 44 years have passed since Israel was established, and despite the talk about dreams of peace, the Israeli Government is practicing the same brutal acts formerly carried out by the Haganah, Stern, and Irgun Zvai Leumi gangs. There is nothing strange in this as the heads of the Israeli Government are the sons and apprentices of those gangs. They will not rest until they complete the extermination of the Palestinian people, throwing them into the sea or somewhere on land, depending on circumstances.

The UN Security Council has adopted a resolution denouncing the Palestinians' expulsion to the buffer zone. Of what use are resolutions of denunciation? Ben-Gurion used to view UN resolutions with the utmost disdain, asking ironically how many tanks and armies the international organization possessed to enforce its will. He then continued repression and terrorism with impunity because he knew that a resolution that is not backed by force is not worth the paper it is written on. Now the generation of the sons and grandsons is following the same path, insisting on the deportation decision despite the Security Council's denunciation.

How can the world's conscience sleep while this tragedy is being played out in broad daylight?

The events and catastrophes to which oppressed nations in Palestine and Bosnia-Hercegovina are being subjected prove that we live in an unjust world that respects only the language of force. Force is the only language that tyrants and despots understand.

'Double International Crime' Charged

NC2112083892 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0835 GMT 21 Dec 92

[From the press review]

[Text] In today's editorial entitled "Deportation Is a Crime Against Humanity," AL-JUMHURIYAH writes that Israel has rejected the UN Security Council's denunciation of its deportation of over 400 Palestinians from their homeland.

The Israeli measure, the paper writes, is a double international crime, because it involves collective punishment of many Palestinians with little regard for their link with the incident that triggered the deportation and it was made in violation of a legal norm that bans expelling or banishing inhabitants of an occupied territory from their land. Several international documents consider such a measure a crime against humanity. The (?Nuremberg) document states that deportation is a war crime, and the Fourth Geneva Convention considers deportation a serious violation of international norms.

AL-JUMHURIYAH concludes by writing: The recent UN Security Council resolution denouncing the Israeli measure was unanimous and strongly worded. The resolution should be translated into action, because Israel, whose actions can jeopardize the peace process, should be made to respect international will and unanimous resolutions.

'Amr Musa on Damascus Declaration, Iran, Sudan

NC1812183992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 18 Dec (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that the Damascus Declaration has faltered but is not dead. It can be rescued by the political will of its eight member-countries if they renew their agreement to implement it.

In an interview with the weekly magazine UKTUBAR to be published on 20 December, Musa affirmed that the Damascus Declaration is not directed against anyone but was set up to protect certain circumstances.

Musa expressed his belief that Iran does not have the right to use a veto against Egypt. Therefore, it cannot object to an Egyptian presence in the Gulf. He said that perhaps Iran is not happy about this, but it does not have the right to a veto. In any case, there is no Egyptian military presence in the Gulf.

Musa said Iran is a fraternal country and its people are a fraternal people. It is only natural for relations between Iran and Egypt to be friendly, understanding, and cooperative. It is neither natural nor necessary for relations to be marked by conflicts, disputes, and problems.

However, he added that Egypt's Arab role cannot coexist with any policy that creates a split within the Arab world or whose objective is to interfere in the affairs of other countries and impose hegemony.

Musa said that as Egyptians and Arabs, we want good relations with Iran. However, in the same way Iran must want to have positive relations with us.

Responding to a question on the presence of Syrian mediation between Egypt and Iran, Musa said: I do not believe that the situation needs any mediation. We are grateful for our Syrian brothers' efforts. He pointed out that he previously met with the Iranian foreign minister, adding: "I could meet with him any time, but we want a basis for setting our bilateral relations on the correct course."

Responding to a question on relations with Sudan, Musa said that the indisputable fact is that Sudan and the Sudanese are the closest country and people to Egypt. Therefore, there cannot be any security threats, nor is it right that such threats, even minor ones, should come to Egypt from the southern Nile Valley. However, the Sudanese trend to adopt a new policy, diverting slightly from the old and known style, and under very dangerous circumstances on the Arab, African, and Islamic worlds as a whole, has led to tension in bilateral relations. There is real tension, which requires Sudan to review its foreign policy, where it is heading, and the threats or possible threats this policy presents neighboring countries, particularly in northern Africa.

The foreign minister continued: It is only natural for our relations with Sudan to be friendly, cooperative, close, and integrated. But to have suspicions, specifically concerning security, is very dangerous issue and is unacceptable under any circumstances. Musa said we are concerned about the policies of the brothers but if we ever enter into issues that affect security, a decisive stand will be required.

Regarding the Hala'ib problem, the Egyptian foreign minister said in his interview with UKTUBAR that the border line between them lies on the 22d parallel. He added that there are certain arrangements over which they agree and there is no objection to implementing them. The happiest situation would be to have Egypt's southern borders in Juba and Sudan's northern borders in Alexandria. "But until this is realized, the official Egyptian border is the 22d parallel, which is a straight line extending from the Red Sea to the western desert and bisects the Nile."

On the latest developments of the Libyan-Western crisis, Musa affirmed that President Husni Mubarak has exerted efforts, spent time on, and occupied himself with this issue more than any official in any other country. The truth is that he succeeded in achieving the necessary political balance between his concern over international legitimacy and his concern for the rights and interests of the Libyan people.

Musa added that President Mubarak exploited his numerous contacts with the European countries and the United States to establish this balance and prevent many things from happening that could have affected Libyan interests. Foreign Minister Musa expressed his belief that President Mubarak's continuous personal contacts will enable us to realize a solution soon—one that is in keeping with international legitimacy and that the Libyan brothers will accept.

Mubarak Receives Qatari Amir's Thanks

NC2012193592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1845 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 20 Dec (MENA)—On his flight back home from Medina, President Husni Mubarak received a cable from His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar. Following is the text:

Your dear excellency brother Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the fraternal Arab Republic of Egypt: As I leave the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the end of the tripartite talks we held within the framework of your noble mediation, I am pleased to express my sincere thanks and gratitude for your earnest and persistent efforts under the shadow of the cordiality, brotherhood, and intimate relations among our fraternal countries.

Your virtuous endeavors and sincere role greatly helped us attain good results that we hope will bear fruit in the near future. I highly appreciate your productive efforts.

which reflected your farsighted wisdom and Egypt's customary role in achieving solidarity and reconciliation among the sons of the united Arab nation.

I wish you a happy journey and a safe return to your dear country. I pray that God will bless you with good health and happiness and the people of fraternal Egypt with continued progress and prosperity under your wise leadership.

Jordanian Ambassador Rebuts Smuggling Charge

NC1812221192 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 15 Dec 92 p 8

[Letter from the Jordanian ambassador to Egypt in the "People's Troubles" mailbag section entitled "A Reply From the Jordanian Embassy"]

[Text] Dear AL-WAFD Editor in Chief Jamal Badawi,

Mr. Muhammad al-Hayawan has written that Egyptian customs officials foiled a smuggling attempt by the Jordanian military attache. Mr. al-Hayawan went on to accuse Jordan with charges that are simply a figment of his imagination.

I would like to state that the military attache has no knowledge of or relation to the customs case of which Mr. al-Hayawan has based his article. Egyptian authorities are certainly aware that the name of the military attache was unjustly linked with the case and that the attache had no knowledge of the shipment's exporters, importers, or contents. Actually, the attache helped foil the smuggling.

What is puzzling is why Mr. al-Hayawan went out of his way to undermine relations between the two countries, casting aspersions on Jordan and questioning its principled stand against violence and terror in all their forms? Jordan is as concerned about Egypt's peace and security as it is about its own.

May you accept my utmost respect.

[Signed] Nabih al-Nimr, ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Passport Racketeers Accused of Helping Infiltrators

NC1812202992 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 15 Dec 92 pp 1, 8

[Report by Muhammad Dawh]

[Excerpt] Al-Jizah Investigation Department officials have arrested an employee of the Passport Department and a Sudanese man and charged them with collaborating to forge passports for Sudanese individuals and facilitating infiltration across Egyptian-Sudanese borders.

The two men are believed to have supplied extremist groups with information and facilitated their access to certain individuals. Their case has been referred to the Prosecution Office. Imbabah Deputy Public Attorney Muhammad Abu-Zayid ordered the two men remanded in custody for 15 days pending the outcome of investigation.

Major General Ahmad Bakr, assistant interior minister for al-Jizah security, and Maj. Gen. 'Isam Najm, director of the Public Funds Department, had ordered police to investigate the activities of the two men within the framework of the campaign to purge Imbabah of terrorists.

Investigation Department chief Brigadier General Muhammad Ibrahim and al-Jizah investigation chief Brig. Gen. Muhammad Fudah carried out wide-ranging investigations and obtained warrants from the General Investigation Department to tape telephone calls and monitor meetings between Khalid Mansur Abu-Qasim, a Sudanese national, and Salah-al-Din 'Abd-al-Tawwab, an employee of the Passports Department.

Investigations showed that the two men forged passports for use by those wishing to cross Egyptian borders illegally. The tactic the two men used consisted of obtaining unauthorized certificates indicating the loss of an original passport, then replacing the allegedly lost passports with ones stamped with forged seals. [passage omitted]

Editorial Denounces Agreement With Israel

NC1712213292 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 13 Dec 92 p 1

[Editorial: "Unacceptable Agreement. Mr. Agriculture Minister"]

[Text] The agreement signed by the agriculture minister [Dr. Yusuf Wali], who is also a secretary general of the ruling party [the National Democratic Party], is unacceptable for political, agricultural, economic, and psychological reasons. The public rejects it.

We do not know if the minister and secretary general obtained permission from higher authorities before signing the agreement or, as usual, went ahead and signed it on his own initiative. He should have consulted with higher authorities, because such agreements—those involving Israel in particular—have special status that cannot be overlooked.

The agreement signed by the agriculture minister and secretary general involves agriculture cooperation between Egypt and Israel and an exchange of expertise in the cultivation of desert land.

The national [state-run] newspapers have ignored the news. AL-AKHBAR did not publish it. AL-AHRAM shyly published four lines at the bottom of the domestic news page.

The signing of this agreement, which took the shape of a "joint statement," makes us wonder: Who should teach who about agriculture? Has Egypt's agriculture expertise, which goes back thousands of years, become of such little use to the agriculture minister that he wants Israel to teach Egypt about agriculture?

We encourage scientific cooperation in all fields with those advanced countries that have more expertise. But, for psychological reasons, we reject agricultural cooperation with Israel. All Egyptians have heard about Israel's attempts to destroy Egyptian agriculture through seeds and pesticides, extending even to the land of Egypt and the beehives. [sentence as published]

Yes to scientific cooperation but not with Israel, a country that uses all its science to destroy any sign of progress in Egypt. Even if the peace agreement ended the state of war that has continued since 1948, we should not forget the traditional and historical enmity. We should not forget that Israel's policy has been to engage Egypt in wars—at least once every 10 years—to exhaust it economically and psychologically and to keep it busy building its army and spending most of the country's revenues on military purposes, leaving little to rebuild the country's economy, industry, or future.

The Egyptians, who taught the entire world the principles of civilization and agriculture, refuse to be taught by Israel—not now, not Israel, and not even if Egypt's life depended on it. We cannot forget the young men Israel killed in wars that lasted over 50 years. We do not know how long the plans and strategy of the secretary general and agriculture minister will be tolerated.

Authorities Arrest 14 Muslim Brotherhood Members

NC2112144392 AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1117 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 21 Dec (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—The Supreme State Security prosecutor has interrogated 14 Muslim Brotherhood members over the past two days. The interrogation has revealed that the defendants have been involved in acts punishable by law. These acts include holding contacts with foreign elements, giving to foreign news agencies statements and reports designed to create confusion, incite citizens, and distort Egypt's image abroad through the elements they contact, and propagating the ideas of the groups that are seeking to undermine Egypt's security and stability.

Security sources say security authorities stormed the hideouts of the Muslim Brotherhood group in nine governorates. They discovered secret pamphlets and organizational papers that are useful for the investigation started by Supreme State Security prosecutor 'Abd-al-Majid Mahmud. The sources said that they apprehended these elements following information that they were holding secret meetings in various places in Cairo. Permission was secured in advance from the prosecutor to arrest the defendants.

Meanwhile, the North Cairo Court will discuss today the renewal of the remand order for nine accused in the "Salsabil" case after the State Security prosecutor ordered their imprisonment.

In another development, security authorities and state security intelligence services in Ismailia conducted searches in quarters one, two, and three of Ismailia. They arrested seven extremists, 69 suspects, and 29 wanted persons. They also seized 16 pieces of firearms and some ammunition.

Muslim Brotherhood Denies Allegations on Terrorism

NC2112090292 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Dec 92 p 5

[Article by Muslim Brotherhood writer Mustafa Mashhur]

[Excerpts] There has been an increase recently in attempts to accuse the Muslim Brotherhood of terrorism and extremism. There is no evidence whatsoever to substantiate this accusation. There is no better way to disprove this accusation than to say that no Muslim Brother has participated in any incidents since our release from prison and detention camps in the early 1970's. Some have tortured and killed Muslim Brothers in prisons; however, they are still alive, walking among us. We have not contemplated exacting revenge on them; we have left their destiny to God.

We want to differentiate between two things—leveling false accusations, which we work to disprove, and lying and attributing to Muslim Brothers remarks we have not uttered. In the latter case, words the Muslim Brotherhood has not uttered are used to prove false accusations, as happened to Counselor Muhammad al-Ma'mun al-Hudaybi. Citing an interview with the French magazine L'EXPRESS, ROSE AL-YUSUF and AL-AKHBAR have attributed to him remarks he has not said, in which he allegedly encourages terrorism and attacks on tourism. This was sheer fabrication. We have bought the French magazine and translated the interview. We found out that in the interview, brother al-Hudaybi discusses terrorism directly or indirectly in only one paragraph. However, the correspondent of the French magazine completed his article with an interview with someone else in al-Rahmah mosque in Asyut. This person said many things encouraging terrorism. What happened was that ROSE AL-YUSUF and AL-AKHBAR confused the two interviews, attributing the entire interview to al-Hudaybi.

The magazine AL-MUSAWWAR pursues the same course; it is as if the three publications have made a pact. On its first page, AL-MUSAWWAR claims that the Muslim Brothers are trying to dominate the current political scene. It depicts the brothers as the prime danger and the real perpetrator and that the boys [those who are actually carrying out the assaults] are mere assistants. AL- MUSAWWAR reiterates the same lie by saying that al-Hudaybi told the French magazine verbatim that God is against tourism. AL-MUSAWWAR also tries to link this lie with what is attributed to Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman that Islam is against tourism. [passage omitted]

Within this comprehensive security and media campaign against terrorism and violence, everybody has deliberately confused the Muslim Brothers with others who do not follow the course of the Brothers and who are not considered Muslim Brothers in any way. [passage omitted]

Many false accusations have been leveled against us to incite the people against us, however, the people are wise and appreciate us. We see this appreciation in the outcome of elections when they are free and fair. One of these accusations is that we covet power, as several parties do. However, we want to be ruled by Islam because it is worthy of this and because it comes from God, who knows his creation. The Muslim Brothers will help and follow anyone who rules with Islam and adheres to it.

They say we want to establish a government that has divine power and controls the lives and destinies of people, as the church in Europe used to control the lives of people. This accusation is false. Islam has been applied before and made the people ruled by it happy and achieved for them security, justice, freedom, and unity. [passage omitted]

Attacks on Tourists Denounced

NC1912165592 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 16 Dec 92 p 8

[Text] Muhammad Hamid Abu-al-Nasr, general guide of the Muslim Brotherhood, has denounced all forms of terrorism. He said that violence and terrorism are not in line with legitimacy or a correct understanding of Islam. They also undermine the nation's stability and security and involve it in turmoils that impede progress.

In a statement he issued yesterday, Abu-al-Nasr said that violence and terrorism obstruct the Islamic call, saying: "We do not approve of violence, regardless of its source and form. We *also* do not accept—in fact, we denounce—terrorism in all its forms. The foreigner who comes to our country, be he a tourist or not, is a trust and his security and safety must not be *jeopardized*. The aggression and terrorism against tourists are wrong and are rejected by laws and minds. The are against humanity."

Leader Denies Ties to 'Militants'

NC2012102092 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 17-23 Dec 92 p 2

[Text] "These abhorrent acts of extreme violence against tourists and individuals deserve to be condemned by all civilised people," says Shaykh Hamid Abu-al-Nasr, Supreme Guide of the illegal Muslim Brotherhood organisation. In an exclusive statement to Al-Ahram weekly, the 80-year-old Islamist leader said that his organization had often denounced the use of violence as a means of achieving the so-called Islamic goals of extremist groups.

Abu-al-Nasr replied in writing to a set of prepared questions which were submitted at his office, the former headquarters of the now defunct Al-Da'wah magazine in central Cairo. The questions and answers were in Arabic.

"Killing innocent souls has nothing whatsoever to do with Islam which these (extremist) groups claim they defend," Abu-al-Nasr said. "What has Islam got to do with sabotaging the country's economy, at a time when we need every kind of support to make our economy stand on its own feet? And what has Islam got to do with defaming the reputation of Egypt as a safe and hospitable country?"

Abu-al-Nasr added that even if a tourist "did something that really offended our culture and social norms, it is only the government, and not individuals, which is authorised to handle such a matter."

The Brotherhood, established in 1928 by Imam Hasan al-Banna, was declared illegal in 1954 following what was then described as an abortive attempt on the life of President Gamal 'Abd-al-Nasir and were only released by his successor, Anwar al-Sadat. The Brotherhood, which claims a membership of 115,000 has become active in various walks of life although, technically, it is still banned.

Some of the extremist groups that resort to anti-government violence are viewed by analysts as offshoots or splinter factions of the Brotherhood, though it may disown them. The Brotherhood, which was involved in a variety of violent activities in the 1940s, now formally renounces the use of force and projects a moderate stance.

Denying any connection between the Brotherhood and the militant Islamists, 'Abu-al-Nasr said: "How can there be any relation when our approach differs completely from theirs? They do not approve of our principles, our policies, and even consider us an obstacle in their way and a threat because we are moderate and do not use violence.

"Even the Minister of the Interior has made it clear, several times, that there is no connection between the Muslim Brotherhood and these groups," Abu-al-Nasr said. "They who claim otherwise should prove this to be true."

Answering a question on how the violent trend should be contained, Abu-al-Nasr urged "greater room for freedom of thought and expression". He also counselled that militants be taught "the correct principles of Islam so that they may not misled by those who completely ignore Islam's tolerant spirit."

"This is a phenomenon that must be handled with great wisdom," the leader of the Brotherhood said, "because if the government reacts violently, the consequences will be grave."

The government's tolerance of many Brotherhood activities despite the organization's illegal status was deemed insufficient by Abu-al-Nasr. "We still cannot hold a seminar or a news conference. All that we are allowed to do is to release statements. The government objects to anything more."

Answering another question, Abu-al-Nasr disclosed that Brotherhood representatives meet with government officials "from time to time". As an example, he mentioned a meeting between him and a high-level Ministry of Interior official following the 12 October earthquake.

Ever since the 1987 parliamentary election, the Brotherhood has been in alliance with the Socialist Labour Party of Ibrahim Shukri. Abu-al-Nasr said this would not change, even if the Brotherhood were allowed to establish its own political party.

"This alliance is based on Islamic principles, though each side holds different views on certain matters," Abu-al-Nasr said. "Even if we were given legal permission to establish our own party."

Libya

Government 'Ready To Negotiate' on Suspects

NC1812203292 Paris AFP in English 2001 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] United Nations, Dec 18 (AFP)—Libya said on Friday it is ready to negotiate with the United States and Britain on a venue for the trial of the two Libyan suspects in the 1988 airline bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland.

"My country declared that—while it had no objection to the two suspects appearing of their own accord before the United States or British courts—it was prepared to enter into negotiations with the countries in question," said Libyan Foreign Minister 'Umar al-Muntasir in a letter to the U.N. secretary general released Friday.

The negotiations should be "under the auspices" of Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali and the trial should be "held in a neutral country to which the parties to the dispute had no objection," the letter said.

Libya has been under an air and arms embargo imposed by the U.N. Security Council since April 15.

The Security Council insists Libya hand over to U.S. or British authorities two Libyans suspected of plotting the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am Boeing 747 passenger jet over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed 270 people.

Al-Muntasir said Libya had fully complied with U.N. requests and that the "practical proposals that we have presented to you in this letter will remove any justification for the continued implementation" of the embargo.

The embargo has caused Libya "great damage and a great ordeal," he said.

The Security Council is also pressuring Tripoli to cooperate with French inquiries into the attack on a French DC-10 in 1989 that killed 170 people. Four Libyans are suspected of being behind the attack.

Al-Muntasir said that despite Libya's refusal to let the French judge heading the investigation enter Libya in October, "contacts between my country and the French authorities continue ... for the purpose of making renewed arrangements for the French magistrate to come to Libya."

Leader Hails Joint Sudanese, Egyptian Agreements

LD1812180292 Tripoli JANA in English 1619 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 18, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution asserted the need for serious thinking to safeguard the Arab nation and the coming generations far from the narrow regional thinking. He said the road for that is open. We have struggled for 20 years until we got to a time where the freedom of the Arab national has been ensured in employment, movement, property and residence in the Arab homeland.

In this respect he indicated that four agreements have been signed between the Great Jamahiriyah and Sudan, namely the four freedoms agreements (residence, property, movement and employment) and that for the first time after a long struggle since the time of President Jamal Abdel Nasir ten agreements had been signed in the [word indistinct] President Husni Mubarak allowing for the freedom of residence, property, movement and employment for the people of the one Arab nation, in the Great Jamahiriyah and Egypt.

Colonel Mu'awwar al-Qadhdhafi confirmed that this is considered an achievement and a significant unionist step realised between the Jamahiriyah and Sudan and between the Jamahiriyah and Egypt.

Mauritania

Israel's Deportation of Palestinians Criticized

LD2112004192 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 0000 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation today issued a communique condemning the recent decision of the Israeli authorities to deport a group of Palestinian citizens. The communique says that the government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, which has followed with keen interest the peace process in the Middle East since the Madrid Conference, is dismayed at the Israeli authorities' repressive decision to deport 418 Palestinians from the occupied Arab territories and condemns that decision.

By behaving in that way, Israel is wasting all opportunities for achieving the hoped-for results at the talks under way. In this respect, the government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania expresses satisfaction at the

speed with which the UN Security Council has condemned Tel Aviv's decision and at the Council's insistence that that decision be scrapped.

Government Decides Not To Join Somali Operation

AB1912090592 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in French 0730 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Communique issued by the minister of contacts and relations with parliament in Nouakchott on 18 December]

[Text] In pursuance of UN Security Council Resolution 794 of 3 December, and with reference to a request by the U.S. Government, to which the United Nations entrusted the task of coordinating the operations of the forces responsible for guaranteeing the distribution of relief supplies to the brotherly people of Somalia, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania decided on 6 December to participate in the aforementioned forces.

The UN secretary general was accordingly informed of this decision. On 13 December, the U.S. ambassador in Nouakchott conveyed to us the thanks and esteem of his government for the Mauritanian Government's decision. He also informed us that 13 out of 42 countries had supplied troops totalling 45,000 men, and that this was enough to execute the first phase of the plan, adding that the 13 countries referred to had been selected according to criteria including particularly the presence of their forces in the region and the proximity thereof, as well as the ability to provide the necessary means for ensuring the arrival of troops at short notice.

Consequently, the Government of Mauritania hopes that the current operations will achieve the objectives envisioned, and that the Somali warring factions will regain the understanding and brotherhood necessary for the reconstruction of the country and the restoration of peace and security in Somalia.

Opposition Leader on French Trip, Party's Future

PM1612130092 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Dec 92 p 5

[Interview with Mauritanian opposition leader Ahmed Ould Dadah by Abdallah Ould Mohamedi in Nouakchott; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Mohamedi] You visited France recently and met with a number of senior French officials. What was the nature of the visit?

[Dadah] My recent visit to France falls within the framework of the efforts exerted by our party to explain the conditions the country is experiencing, and also to explain the party's aims. At one point we were preoccupied with electoral and procedural measures. During that time our contacts with the outside world were limited. This is why it was necessary to make contacts with France and other countries to inform them about the party, its political program, and aspirations. This was the aim of the visit. [passage omitted]

[Mohamedi] What are the most important results of your recent mission in France?

[Dadah] The most important result of the visit was the understanding on the issues which concern both sides. And our talks with them were conducted in an atmosphere of cordiality and clear understanding—which is the most important thing, as far as we are concerned. [passage omitted]

[Mohamedi] There is talk about the secession of some leading members who have pulled out of your party to form a new party. Do you see this as a new competition to polarize supporters?

[Dadah] The Democratic Forces Union party seeks to gather the largest number of people to coordinate their efforts in a joint political framework aimed at rescuing the country. In this context its aim is to rally all citizens. The leaders you referred to played an important role in the party's course, and the colleagues in the leadership have spared no effort to persuade them to return to continue the struggle in a joint march.

If the establishment of a new party is their choice, they have complete freedom; this is our position, despite our extreme regret.

[Mohamedi] Do you believe that the opposition front will remain coherent in the remaining period of Ould Taya's presidential term?

[Dadah] God knows. If Ould Taya remain president in the remaining years, I think Mauritanian's tragedies will increase. At any rate, all present factors indicate that the country as a whole is striving for change, and I personally would accept the results of any impartial elections.

[Mohamedi] And can you guarantee that you will win the next battle?

[Dadah] I am optimistic by nature, because I have confidence in the Mauritanian people and the assessment and analysis conducted by the party. We can only perform our national duty, and whatever the situation, the outcome will be in the Mauritanian people's interests.

Gulf Papers Condemn Expulsion of Palestinians

JN1812165292 Manama WAKH in English 1515 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Manama, Dec. 18, (GNA)—Qatari newspaper 'AL-SHARQ' has deplored Israel occupation authorities decision to expel hundreds of Palestinians from their homeland.

In its today's editorial AL-SHARQ said the Israeli decision would deal a hard blow to Middle East peace talks.

It's time for Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to admit that he is behind all violence in occupied territories because of his double face policy, said AL-SHARQ.

A UAE [United Arab Emirates] Arabic newspaper today commented editorially on the Israeli expulsion of a group of Palestinians.

The Dubayy-based 'AL-BAYAN' said in part: "In justifying the expulsion of 418 Palestinians in retaliation of the killing of an Israeli officer by Hamas group, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin claimed that temporary expulsion was the least harmful option on properties and persons.

"He wants to give a human face to one of the worst crimes banned by international law which is to expel citizens from their homeland.

"But the option is the most compatible with Israeli plans to change the demographic set-up of the occupied territories by reducing the number of Palestinians and increasing the number of Jewish settlers.

"The plan also aims at dragging on the peace talks as long as possible until the population ratio reaches the desired levels.

"The big powers should show their condemnation of the Israeli action practically by taking some measures to compel Israel stop such inhuman acts.

"Only this kind of action will guarantee a success for the peace process which everyone aspires for its success."

Bahrain

Defense Minister on 'Integration' of GCC Forces

JN1812165792 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Manama, Dec. 18, (GNA)—The programme for the development of the capabilities of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] armed forces and equipping them with advanced arms is within the framework of the policy of the member states to build strong integrated armed forces to protect their national gains and maintain the region's peace and security.

This was stated by Bahraini Defence Minister and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Maj. General Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Ahmad Al Khalifah on the eve of the 13th GCC summit due to be held in Abu Dhabi from December 21 to 23.

He told EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY that the Peninsula Shield forces formed the nucleus for the GCC cooperation in the military field and provided them with the opportunity to exchange experience in military tactics among themselves.

Maj. Gen. Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Ahmad Al Khalifah pointed out that this experience was reflected in the effective role played by the GCC countries in the war for the liberation of Kuwait.

Answering a question on the integration of the GCC armed forces, Shaykh Khalifah said that positive steps have been taken in this direction in line with the priorities in the scope of the cooperation and the new developments in the region.

On GCC arms production, he said that the establishment of military factories producing weapons matching those produced by the developed countries entails a great know-how and the availability of many other factors essential for the implementation of such a project.

In reply to a question on the integration of the GCC armaments, Shaykh Khalifah pointed out that each member state has specific circumstances which dictate to it the kind of weapons that best serve the objectives of its army, adding that, on many occasions, variety in armaments and diversities of their sources have the advantage of providing the armed forces with different experience which could contribute to their overall capability.

He said that at this stage, it would be more feasible to conduct studies on ways of integrating the different kinds of ammunition and the spare parts as well as the administrative systems as the first step toward the integration of the GCC armed forces.

On the peace and stability of the region, he said that the strategic importance of the region as source of energy makes it the focus of all nations particularly the developed countries and pointed out that its stability can only be achieved through continuous cooperation with the brotherly and friendly nations.

Maj. Gen. Shaykh Khalifah added that the Gulf region is an indivisible body and called upon the GCC states to depend on their people in the building of their armed forces and the defence of their national interests.

"After each country realizes this, peace and stability of the region will be a matter of coordination among the member states and cooperation with other countries which have vital interests in the region," he said.

Kuwait

Minister on Military Cooperation With Egypt

NC1912162792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1137 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 19 Dec (MENA)—Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Salim al-Sabah has stated that the military cooperation between Egypt and Kuwait is proceeding in an excellent manner and that military delegations from both sides are exchanging visits.

In an interview with MENA's correspondent in Kuwait Ashraf al- Laythi, the Kuwaiti defense minister affirmed that relations between his country and Egypt are strong and deep and that no one will ever succeed in dividing the two countries, no matter how hard they try.

The Kuwaiti minister pointed out that his country is considering the possibility of buying new Egyptian weapons, particularly since Kuwait depends considerably on the Egyptian "Amoun" defense system. He remarked that the system has proved highly efficient and that Kuwait has made further orders for it.

Shaykh al-Salim affirmed that Kuwait has not signed any contracts to buy weapons from the United States or Britain and that reports to that effect are totally groundless. He said, however, that Kuwait has expressed its desire to buy the American-made "Abrams" tank, but that no contracts have been signed. He added that the American Patriot networks that are deployed in Kuwait are still owned by the United States and that Kuwait has not bought them.

The Kuwaiti defense minister pointed out that the process of rebuilding the Kuwaiti Armed Forces focused on two basic points: First, to set up a highly efficient, though not necessarily huge Kuwaiti Army, supported with the necessary technology to embody the Kuwaiti people's aspirations; and second, to sign defense or security treaties with fraternal and friendly countries to support the Kuwaiti Armed Forces if the need arises.

He added that the security agreements aim basically to protect Kuwait and to cooperate with other countries, particularly the permanent members of the UN Security Council. Therefore, he remarked, we are about to sign two security agreements with China and Russia.

He was asked whether there is any movement to set up a Gulf security force involving Egypt and Syria to promote the role of the Peninsula Shield forces. He said military cooperation between Egypt and Syria on the one hand and the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states on the other is fruitful and constructive and that it has existed for years. He remarked that the Kuwaitis take pride in that cooperation and that they back any effort conducive to the establishment of a military force involving the GCC states, Egypt, and Syria.

Shaykh al-Salim said that it has been agreed to receive the Egyptian and Syrian troops if the need emerges. He explained that President Mubarak asserted to him during their meeting that the Egyptian Army is prepared to go to Kuwait if required. [passage omitted]

Asked whether there are plans to involve other Gulf forces in the military maneuvers Kuwait is conducting with friendly countries, he said the security agreements Kuwait signed with the United States, Britain, and France concern these states exclusively and that the maneuvers are being conducted in accordance with these agreements. As for the involvement of other Gulf forces in these maneuvers, the matter is left to officials in these countries, he said, adding: As far as the Peninsula Shield is concerned, our drills and maneuvers are being conducted jointly with the states participating in this force. [passage omitted]

Commenting on Iran's role in the region and its endeavors to acquire nuclear weapons, Shaykh al-Salim said Iran can participate in defending the region's security through dialogue on the security arrangements rather than through an actual human presence. As a state, we signed the nonproliferation treaty and demanded that the Middle East be declared free from weapons of mass destruction, he said. Therefore, we believe that the presence of nuclear weapons in the region will certainly upset the regional military balance.

Qatar

Al Thani Holds Talks With Egypt's Mubarak

NC1712201592 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Talks between President Husni Mubarak and His Highness Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani began tonight in Doha. The talks dealt with the situation in the Gulf in view of the latest developments, current Arab affairs, and ways of bolstering bilateral relations. The ministers accompanying President Mubarak held meetings with their Qatari counterparts.

President Mubarak and the delegation accompanying his excellency arrived in Doha tonight from Medina. Shaykh Khalifah, the Qatari heir apparent, and Qatari ministers and senior officials welcomed President Mubarak upon his arrival.

Mubarak left Medina for Doha after holding a two-hour session of talks with Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. King Fahd hosted a luncheon banquet for President Mubarak and the delegation accompanying his excellency.

President Mubarak left Cairo at noon for Saudi Arabia with a delegation comprised of Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa; Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif; Dr. Zakariya 'Azmi, director of the Presidential Office; and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the Presidential Office for Political Affairs.

Mubarak Leaves Doha

JN1812162892 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Doha, Dec. 18 (GNA)—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak left Doha this afternoon following a two-day state visit to Qatar.

He was seen off upon departure by H.H. [His Highness] the Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani and a number of senior [word indistinct] officials.

While here the Egyptian president held talks with the amir of Qatar focusing on the latest developments in the Gulf region and the current Arab situation, as well as means of promoting bilateral relations.

Border Agreement Reached With Saudi Arabia

Amir Leaves to Visit King Fahd

JN1912093292 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Doha, 19 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, left for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia this morning on a visit to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY said the Qatari amir is accompanied by a high-ranking official delegation comprising Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, minister of interior; Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani, minister of foreign affairs; Dr. 'Isa Ghanim al-Kuwari, minister of the amir's court; Dr. Najib Muhammad al-Nu'aymi, adviser at the office of the heir apparent and defense minister; and other ranking Qatari officials.

Amir Returns

JN2112093792 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Doha, 20 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani returned to Doha tonight at the end of a two-day visit to his brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques.

He was received on arrival at Doha International Airport by His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and defense minister.

He was also received by the shaykhs, ministers, chairman of the Consultative Council, undersecretaries, deputy chairman of the Consultative Council, and ranking civilian and military officials.

Fahd's Role in Agreement Praised

JN2112081592 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0535 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Medina, 20 Dec (WAKH)—Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Al Thani has announced that the State of Qatar and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reached an agreement on resolving their border dispute during the talks held in Medina yesterday and today between the Qatari side, led by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, and the Saudi side led by King Fahd Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, in which Egyptian President Husni Mubarak took part.

In a statement to the QATARI NEWS AGENCY, the Qatari foreign minister hailed the wise role and understanding of the custodian of the two holy mosques, which had a great effect in reaching this agreement, whose implementation will eliminate any temporary tension that marred the distinguished relations between brothers.

Shaykh Hamad hailed the mediation, good-offices, and fruitful efforts made by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. He said that this is what all the Arabs expect from Egypt, which is known for its efforts aimed at healing rifts and handling any change in relations between brothers, and which comes from its eagerness to maintain the unity and solidarity of the Arab position, based on common objectives and joint destiny.

He expressed confidence that this agreement will receive due attention, care, and commitment by both sides, out of the historical fraternal relations between the two sisterly states.

Government Confirms Amir To Attend GCC Summit

JN2112073592 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0540 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Doha, 21 Dec (WAKH)—It was announced in Doha last night that Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani will leave for the fraternal United Arab Emirates today, Monday, to attend the 13th summit of the Higher Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] due to begin in Abu Dhabi this evening.

A statement issued by the Qatari Amiri Court said that an official high-ranking delegation will accompany his highness the amir.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Holds Talks With Egypt's Mubarak

LD1712172992 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1620 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Medina 17 Dec (SPA)—His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab

Republic of Egypt, arrived in Holy Medina this afternoon on a visit to the Kingdom. King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, greeted him on his arrival at Prince Muhammad Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Airport. [passage omitted]

His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak is accompanied by a delegation that includes 'Amr Musa, the foreign minister; Safwat al-Sharif, minister of information and director of the President's Office; Dr. Zakariyah 'Azmi, first undersecretary at the Foreign Ministry; and Usamah al-Baz, director of the Presidential Office for Foreign Affairs. [passage omitted]

The custodian of the two holy mosques and his brother His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a meeting at the Royal Court in Taybah Palace this afternoon. It was attended by 'Amr Musa and Safwat al-Sharif, as well as Ibrahim al-Angari, personal adviser to the custodian of the two holy mosques; and 'Ali al-Shu'ir, minister of information.

His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak left Holy Medina after his brief visit to the Kingdom. King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, saw his excellency off at Muhammad Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Airport in Holy Medina. [passage omitted]

King Fahd, Qatari Amir Exchange Messages

LD2012232192 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, received a cable from His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, following his departure from Medina today. The following is the text of the cable:

My dear brother, custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, monarch of the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, may God protect and safeguard him. It gives me great pleasure, as I depart from my second country, the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to offer you my deepest thanks and most sincere gratitude for the great welcome and generosity afforded me and my delegation, something that reflects the depth of the strong fraternal historic ties which have always bound our two countries and our fraternal peoples together. I would also like to take this opportunity to express to you, my fraternal monarch, the sincere pride and appreciation that I and the Qatari people feel toward your sharp wisdom, your pioneering stances, and your sincere efforts in the service of our Gulf region and our Arab and Islamic nations.

While I thank God Almighty for the good and fruitful outcome of our talks, for which you take the greatest credit, I ask God Almighty to bring us always together on the path of goodness and to guide us to achieve our people's aspirations for progress, advancement, and strength. With my best wishes to yourself for much good health and plenty of happiness and to your fraternal people for continuous progress and prosperity under your wise leadership. May God protect and safeguard you. Peace and God's blessings be upon you. Your brother, Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar.

The custodian of the two holy mosques sent the following reply to his highness the amir of the State of Qatar:

Your Highness, dear brother, Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, may God safeguard him. I am in receipt of your highness's cable and the fraternal sentiments contained therein, following your and your delegation's departure from your second country, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. While I deeply appreciate what you have expressed, I stress that we were happy to receive you in your country, among your kinsfolk and your brothers. The meeting was an expression of the depth of the firm ties and the continuous fraternal relations between our two fraternal countries, as well as of our aspirations for strengthening them and for achieving the noble objectives of our countries and our region and bolstering their blessed march toward solidarity and cooperation. We turn to Almighty God to guide us all to what pleases and satisfies Him and achieves for our people their aspirations for further strength and prosperity. I wish your highness much good health and happiness and the fraternal people of Qatar continuous progress and prosperity. Your brother, Servant of the Two Holy Places, Fahd Bin-'Abd-Al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, monarch of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

King Fahd Addresses Citizens on Islam, Future

LD2012235192 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Speech by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud to a group of citizens in his palace in Medina on 19 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] Thanks be to God, it is a source of joy for this country and its population that, generally, Islam is spread everywhere. The important thing is that what we are seeing is seen by everyone who listens to the news or reads the papers. Who would have believed that in the former Soviet Union, ruled for 75 years by a communist regime, Islamic states would emerge when this regime collapsed? We could not imagine this as they were hidden away from us in one way or another. When the Islamic Conference Organization recently held a meeting on Bosnia-Hercegovina and the affairs of all Muslims, I looked around and saw heads of state, including European ones, including that of Bosnia-Hercegovina, naturally. They were Muslim heads of state. We did not know that the main leadership in European states or states near to Europe could be in the hands of Muslims. This is a blessing of God, the power of Almighty God.

This shows to those who stand against the Islamic creed that the Islamic creed is a developing one. [passage omitted]

What is the state's duty and what is the citizen's? The state's duty is to fear God, first and foremost, in all matters public or secret. It has to use as an example and a base the Koran and the prophet's practice and to avert anything that contravenes them. [passage omitted]

There remains one thing which I believe is paramount. We have recently noticed, over the last year or two, that forums are no longer being used for revealing what has been established by the prophet and the book. They are now being used for worldly purposes or for matters unrelated to public interest. I do not object to anyone wanting to say something which is of interest to Islam, Muslims, or their homeland. What is sometimes noticeable, however, is that people stray from the rule which has always been followed. I do not think that that is a beneficial thing to do. It would be better for someone who has something to say directly or verbally, someone who wants to speak his mind, to do so in writing. Perhaps that would be better and more useful. This state, praise be to God, follows the Islamic faith and I do not think there is anyone amongst us who does not agree with the book and the prophet's practice, or with religious scholars over what has been established by God and his prophet. Still, neither clubs [andiyyah] nor forums should be used by us to cause harm to one another. That is totally unacceptable. I do not believe that anyone in his right mind would use them for that purpose. Yet, some say that religious scholars enjoy no value in the eyes of the state. On the contrary, they and anyone else related to religious scholarship enjoy first class attention, because this country was erected on the foundations and rules of the Islamic faith. [passage omitted]

If our doors were closed to citizens then one might say: Well, I cannot help it, I say what I think in one way or another, in the street, in the mosque, or in any other place. Since, however, doors are open and hearts are open, and since there is a strong wish for this, it is very useful to see what is happening in the world now. Is what is happening in several Islamic countries for the good of their homelands? I do not believe that it is for their good, for the good of the homelands. I want to speak about Saudi Arabia only; I hope that we will be heard fully by what is most useful. Is there anyone of us who would not like to hear the word of sincerity and advice? [passage omitted]

We should only try things which benefit us in criticizing the existing way of life, though only sometimes, and not always, if the person involved is talking about matters of the faith. I do not think that would be undesirable. What is undesirable, however, is using these matters to further one's personal interests or the interests of people outside our homeland. [passage omitted]

Should there be anything tangibly useful in the leaflets, cassettes, and whatnot that are being circulated-- [changes thought] has it come to us depending on the criticism, cassettes, and talk which serve no interest? Is that how people's interests are furthered? No, the way to further people's interests is to contact those in office and the 'ulema. I hope this will straighten matters out--matters we are aware of, and no one should think we are not. [passage omitted]

The doors are open. However, over the last two years or so, we have seen things which we had never seen before and which definitely never existed in our country. For someone to direct us from outside our homeland is not acceptable because we are a people of faith.

We are a people of faith, and we do not accept directions from anyone other than God, the Great and Almighty, from what the prophet, may God's prayers and mercy be upon him, has said, and from what the imams of Muslims have reported.

As I have said, I do not interfere in the affairs of any country. We wish success to each Islamic country, and we wish that it moves along the straight path. This goes without saying. [passage omitted]

Do we need to change the good situation we are in now? Do we need to come and say we do not want the good situation we are in? Does anyone from outside our homeland influence us? I think that every citizen who thinks about the issues and understands them realizes that we are in a good situation, and perhaps we are envied for that. [passage omitted]

What is not required is that we abandon the rules followed by the fathers and forefathers, as well as the students in this country, for other rules that have no link whatsoever with what a preacher would say in any way. I am saying this because you have heard and seen, some have listened to cassettes, others have read leaflets, and others have read about what is said abroad about this country now. Were there good intentions behind this? No, I do not believe this.

Therefore, it is my duty, out of my responsibility before God and then before the citizens, to draw attention to what is best. First: we accept advice, unequivocally. Second: I do not believe that it would be acceptable from any one to come and say that those in charge do not care for students. Quite the contrary. We care fully for students, and not only them but also all citizens in all the stages of their lives. [passage omitted]

In the past we have closed our eyes and said that perhaps...[changes thought] but now, thanks be to God, all I can say is that matters have begun to take their normal course. I prefer that they continue to take their normal course, and that we bend ourselves to the public interest which, thanks be to God, is above any other considerations.

Once again I repeat: The state has been set up only on the teachings of the Koran and the sayings of the prophet. Perhaps this will be useful, and perhaps this address will be taken seriously.

I hope that efforts will be confined to giving advice for the sake of God. If, however, someone has things to say then he can always come to those in charge and speak to them as any

region, in any place. As advice this is wanted and desired. What is not desired is to bring issues out into the open. As far as bringing issues out into the open is concerned, even though in the past we have turned a blind eye to it, naturally I want it to be understood clearly that no blind eye will be turned to anything that causes damage first to the creed, second to the national interest, and third to anything that changes the existing situation.

On this basis, I wanted to clarify certain things. I hope that I will not need once again to point out such matters. [repetitive passage omitted]

You are called upon to stick to the book of God and the sunna of his prophet, and you are called upon to show love and sincerity. You are called upon to secure everything that makes the citizen peaceful wherever he is, whether in rural areas or villages or in towns. I hope, I have great hope naturally that matters will stop at a certain limit, the limit of religion being synonymous with advice. It is no religion for you to go onto a podium, or to a meeting or elsewhere and start insulting someone at will. I think this is far removed from what reality should be, and from the public interest. [passage omitted]

Citizens are welcome to come to me to speak their minds whether in writing, which is preferable, or verbally anywhere. [passage omitted]

I also hope that workers of knowledge and mosque imams will help convince citizens to concede space to their brothers during the pilgrimage season. We have seen this year the extent of panic, which cannot be allowed to be greater next time. If the state can incorporate further space, that would be meeting the required service targets. [passage omitted]

Council Condemns Deportation of Palestinians

LD2012235592 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2230 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Excerpts] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Su'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, chaired the session of the Council of Ministers held on 20 December at Taybah Palace in Medina.

Following the session, Information Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Sha'ir made a statement to SPA in which he said: [passage omitted]. The information minister went on to say: Following that, the Council reviewed summaries of reports on the most important political and security developments in the Arab region. Within that framework, the Council condemned the acts of aggression committed by Israel, which deported 418 Palestinian citizens from the occupied Arab territories, thus violating all international laws and charters, including the Geneva Convention which forbids the occupier from expelling inhabitants from their lands.

The Council called on the international community, particularly the UN Security Council, to prevent Israel from continuing its repressive policy against Palestinian citizens and to force it to return the deportees immediately to their homeland and to their relatives. [passage omitted]

More Troops Leave to Join Somalia Operation

LD2112100892 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0930 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Tabuk, 21 Dec (SPA)—In implementation of directives by King Fahd Bin 'Abd-Al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, that Saudi forces be sent to Somalia to help ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid to sons of the fraternal Somali people, the seventh group of Saudi troops left Tabuk airport this morning for fraternal Somalia on Saudi air force planes. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

President on Mubarak Efforts, Iran, GCC

NC1912080292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA)—United Arab Emirates [UAE] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan has praised Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's ability and wisdom as well as his efforts to resolve Arab and Islamic problems and eliminate differences with the help of his brothers. He noted that President Mubarak's [mediation] efforts between Saudi Arabia and Qatar will culminate in Qatar's participation in the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] summit meeting in Abu Dhabi on 21 December.

This came in an interview Shaykh Zayid gave to AL-AHRAM Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi' and AKHBAR AL-YAWM Chief Editor Ibrahim Sa'dah, which the two papers published this morning.

Shaykh Zayid emphasized that the Arab nation has no alternative than to maintain its cohesion, solidarity, and unity and to adopt united rather than differing stands.

He stressed the need to clear the Arab atmosphere and to build relations on a clear-cut and candid basis to avoid any future problems and achieve effective Arab solidarity.

Shaykh Zayid remarked that the brothers who committed the mistake of supporting "Saddam" in his aggression against Kuwait and neglected their brothers' rights should be tolerated, because tolerance will be appreciated by all the wise and sensible people in the world, who already have blamed them for wronging us.

He described those who take Islam as a mere slogan or cover for killing the innocent and intimidating peaceful people as "unchaste" elements who deceive the almighty creator to weaken and annihilate their brothers, sons, and kinsfolk.

Shaykh Bin-Sultan supports international intervention in Somalia to save the people from famine, destruction, and bloodshed. He remarked that it is wrong to oppose such a humanitarian act.

He stressed the need to use force to save the people in Bosnia-Herzegovina, particularly since UN efforts have failed in this regard. He referred to his meeting with UK Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and his demand for ending the embargo imposed on arms sales to Bosnia-Herzegovina and for the use of force to put an end to the sinful Serbian aggression. If the international community agrees on this, the United Nations and the UN Security Council's position will be enhanced, whereas the two will lose their value and meaning if the international community fails to do that, he said.

The UAE president stressed that the Arab and Muslim nation should contribute money and personnel to any international effort to save the Bosnian people and land.

Commenting on Iran's recent arms transactions, Shaykh Zayid said: Of course we do not know Iran's real intentions; whether it is taking precautionary steps against aggression or preparing to commit aggression. Only God knows Iran's intentions, he remarked.

Touching on Iran's occupation of three islands belonging to the UAE, Shaykh Bin-Sultan pointed out that the UAE held a dialogue with Iran on the issue and found that it did not understand the UAE's position. The issue is now being considered by the Arab League and already has been referred to the United Nations so that it can be considered by the UN Security Council, he stated.

We are seeking a peaceful solution to that dispute, he said, but added that the UAE is determined to restore its rights through just and mutually accepted means. We have no ambitions regarding other people's rights, he stressed.

Asked about the Damascus Declaration and whether it will be discussed at the GCC summit, Shaykh Zayid said this is likely. He added: I believe the declaration has not been rejected, although it is not binding at the meantime. We all are members of the Arab League and bound by its charter, he said.

Commenting on GCC cooperation, Shaykh Zayid pointed out that the GCC has achieved much which the world never expected it to do in the short space of 12 years. He added that the GCC members constitute one household and that differences in views is a normal thing which should not keep them apart.

Touching on the Middle East peace march, Shaykh Zayid remarked that peace among Muslims and non-Muslims is required. Whoever seeks God's grace always demands and works for peace with determination, because peace stands for security and stability, he remarked.

Shaykh Zayid stated that relations between Egypt and the UAE are exemplary. He expressed the hope that other fraternal states will follow this example and build similar relations on the basis of strong ties and sincere, honest, and fraternal cooperation.

As an Arab and Muslim nation, we should cooperate for the wellbeing of our nation. He emphasized that the nation has no alternative but to maintain solidarity and cohesion and to adopt a united stand.

Reconciliation With Pro-Iraq Arabs Urged

NC1912144292 Paris AFP in English 1322 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Dec 19 (AFP)—The United Arab Emirates' (UAE) president has called for a reconciliation with Arab countries that were accused of sympathising with Iraq when it invaded Kuwait in 1990.

But Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nahayyan implicitly ruled out dealing with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and pledged support for the Iraqi people.

His call came ahead of Monday's summit of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in Abu Dhabi, where diplomatic sources said relations with pro-Iraq Arab nations would be discussed.

"We should forgive the brothers who made a mistake by supporting Saddam in his aggression against Kuwait and neglected our rights," Shaykh Zayid said in an interview published on Saturday by the Egyptian AL-AHRAM and AL-AKHBAR newspapers and the Lebanese daily AL-ANWAR.

"Such a move from our side will be highly appreciated by all the wise in the world although those whom we have backed and helped did not support us but backed the aggression," he added in the interview carried by UAE newspapers.

Shaykh Zayid, who takes over the presidency of the GCC next week, did not say who the pro-Iraq Arabs were but Gulf countries have accused Jordan, Sudan, Yemen and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) of supporting Baghdad.

Jordanian and other officials have said they sought to mend fences with the GCC but were rebuffed. King Hassan II of Morocco mediated in the rift during a tour of the region last month but failed to make progress.

The PLO and the three pro-Iraq states have suffered from serious financial problems since the GCC halted aid to them because of the rift. An estimated 40 billion dollars were pumped to them by the GCC between 1970 and 1990.

"The relations with those states will be discussed at the GCC summit but it remains to be known if they will take a collective decision or leave it to each member to decide on restoring ties," a Gulf diplomat told AFP.

Asked whether his call for reconciliation includes Saddam Husayn, Shaykh Zayid said: "The Iraqi people

are oppressed and destroyed and if you ask any one of them about Saddam, no one will say he is happy with this leader.

"The Iraqi people have been misled by Saddam since the beginning. Their suffering is our suffering and our duty is to support them in their plight."

He said he favoured holding an Arab summit but stressed member states must first end their differences.

"I think that before calling for an Arab summit, we have to clear the atmosphere and prepare well for it on a clear and frank basis in order to avert any new damage in inter-Arab ties in future and achieve solidarity," he said.

Sheykh Zayid, whose country is locked in a dispute with neighbouring Iran over Abu Musa and two other strategic Gulf islands, said the problem had been taken to the United Nations and would be presented to the security council.

"We want a peaceful solution and we are fully determined to recover our rights in a manner that will be satisfactory to both parties," he said.

He said GCC states—Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and the UAE—did not know why Iran has been engaged in a massive armament programme.

"Of course we do not know its intentions. Is it preparing to face an aggression or make an aggression? No one knows... only God knows," he said.

UN Suspends Aid Program To Kurds After Bombings

NC1912100292 Paris AFP in English 0938 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 19 (AFP)—The United Nations suspended its winter aid program for northern Iraq following a series of bombings that destroyed trucks carrying supplies for Iraqi Kurds, a UN official said Saturday.

Colin Mitchell, a coordinator for the UN program, said the program will be suspended until Iraqi authorities guarantee adequate security for distributing aid.

He said Richard Foran, the chief coordinator for UN humanitarian activities in Iraq, issued an official request for security guarantees to the Iraqi Foreign Ministry 48 hours ago.

Joint Inspection of Trucks Proposed

JN2012200692 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] An official Foreign Ministry spokesman has announced that Iraq today proposed to the United Nations that representatives of both the world body and the Iraqi Government conduct a joint inspection of the trucks dispatched by UN agencies from Turkey at the two entry and exit points controlled by the Iraqi authorities in the north of the country.

The proposal has been communicated to Jan Eliasson, assistant UN secretary general for humanitarian affairs, and to his Baghdad representative Mr. (Turan).

The spokesman said that the proposal unmasks the false allegations being spread about the blowing up of the trucks. U.S. agents, who are imposing themselves on our people in the north, the spokesman added, are the ones who destroyed the trucks in order for these incidents to be used as a pretext to retain U.S.-Western intervention in the north and the U.S. and Western presence in Turkey.

The falsehood of these lies is made all the more obvious by the fact that the Iraqi authorities continue to supply the governorates of al-Sulaymaniyah, Irbil, and Dahuk on a regular basis, with the items covered by the ration card, which is distributed to all Iraqi citizens.

The spokesman rejected outright the lies uttered by Edward Djerejian, assistant U.S. secretary of state, about [words indistinct] in al-Sulaymaniyah. U.S. circles spread such allegations whenever the time approaches for extending the presence of U.S. forces in Turkey, he added.

Turkish public opinion is known to be intensely opposed to this presence, which numerous Turkish personalities have said threatens the security of Iraq and Turkey. These lies are calculated to mislead Turkish public opinion and to bring pressure to bear on the Turkish parliament so that it passes an extension of the forces' presence.

Turkish Military Group Arrives To Discuss Agreement

NC1812183892 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] A high-level Turkish military delegation arrived in Salah al-Din yesterday to discuss the implementation of the agreement signed between the regional government of Kurdistan and the Turkish Government on security in the border area.

The Turkish military delegation will meet with Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, and Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party.

Opposition Advocates 'Broad National Alliance'

NC2012170292 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] Representatives of nationalist and democratic forces and figures in Iraq have denounced the ostracized tyrant regime's arbitrary measures and acts of aggression against our people, who oppose its policy.

In a statement released yesterday, the Iraqi forces and figures emphasized that the only way to save our people from their plight, rebuild the country, and deal with economic problems is linked to deposing tyrant Saddam and his regime.

The statement said that the tyrant regime's increasing isolation at the domestic, Arab, and international levels, its worsening economic crisis, and its difficult political situation made the ostracized regime turn to repressing the people and their overwhelming popular uprising.

The statement added that the Iraqi democratic forces seek to set up a broad national alliance to unseat the tyrant and his regime and establish a democratic national regime that guarantees public freedoms and equality and secures the country's reconstruction. The statement praised the steadfastness of our people inside the country against the defeated dictator's policy.

Documents, Equipment Said Moved Outside Baghdad

NC2012155892 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1336 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] Our own sources have disclosed that over the past few days tyrant Saddam's regime has transported documents and equipment relating to its armament programs and computers programmed by Western companies to farms and fields outside of Baghdad.

The sources said the regime did so for fear that UN inspection teams might discover information on its destructive plans.

The reports affirm that when UN inspectors arrive, the defeated regime loads chemical and biological weapons, quantities of enriched uranium, and important documents onto trucks that roam the governorates until the inspectors' mission is over.

Guards Reportedly Executed for Planning Coup

NC1812163192 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1440 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Our sources inside Iraq have obtained information proving that in the past few days the regime arrested and subsequently executed by firing squad several senior Republican Guard officers, including some decorated for valor, on the charge of planning a coup d'etat against Saddam's regime.

The reports add that three of the officers involved in the planned coup, including a staff brigadier general, escaped from the clutches of the special security and military intelligence forces when the arrest campaign began. The sources added that authorities arrested their families and informed all checkpoints and patrols to search for them and bring them back dead or alive.

It should be noted that in the past few days the commanders of the regime's forces ordered three Republican Guard brigades to move south from Baghdad and deploy around the southern marshlands. This measure shows a desire to keep these forces far from Baghdad and involve them in attacks on marshland citizens.

Rebels Claim Killing 4 Intelligence Personnel

NC2012155792 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1330 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] In continuation of the jihad and resistance operations against Saddam's defeated regime, the revolutionary jihad groups of our rebellious people continue to track down the regime's criminal henchmen, whose hands have been stained with the blood of innocents.

A revolutionary mujahidin group has carried out God's just sentence against intelligence captain criminal Ahmad Muhammad, who worked at an air base near al-Kahala', al-'Amarah Governorate. According to our sources, two of his aides were also killed along with him. The criminal, who came from al-Mawsil, was one of the people's enemies because he was loyal to Saddam's ostracized regime.

The Islamic revolution mujahidin laid an ambush on the road between al-Kahla' and (al-Mu'ayyil), al-'Amarah Governorate, in the past few days. The ambush targeted an intelligence member, criminal Muhammad Muhsin 'Iaywi. When he [word indistinct] in his (Waz) command car, the ambush members fired at the car, destroying it and killing the criminal, who had caused terror and fear among the citizens. He was also known for torturing numerous military personnel who opposed the regime in his capacity as a military intelligence mercenary.

Engineers Damming Rivers Reportedly Attacked

NC1812163392 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1355 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] The heroic sons of southern Iraq continue their operations against the subversive engineering work being done by the Iraqi regime to dam the rivers that feed the marshland area. A Mujahidin group from the youth of the marshlands attacked the subversive engineering work of the Iraqi regime in the (?Qurnat 'Ali) in the al-Basrah Governorate. Our sources said that the attack launched last week resulted in the destruction of three [words indistinct], burning a vehicle, and killing or injuring a number of the personnel protecting the engineering work. The engineering corps is trying to build earth dams in the area.

Bombs, Other Ammunition Defused in Dhi Qar

JN1912182192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Dec (INA)—Iraqi technical organs have defused 10 cluster and spherical bombs in Dhi Qar Governorate in southern Iraq.

These same organs also detonated 35 pieces of various types of ammunition, dropped by the planes of the 30-state aggression on the cities of the governorate, which is 350 km from Baghdad.

The specialized organs are continuing to search for unexploded bombs to defuse them. The technical organs had defused hundreds of bombs in various parts of Iraq. These bombs were dropped on Iraq by the planes of the 30-state aggressors.

Reaction to Israeli Deportation of Palestinians

Liberation Front Condemns Act

JN1912211892 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Dec 92

["Text" of statement by a spokesman for the Arab Liberation Front Central Committee; place and date not given]

[Text] We were not surprised when the Zionist enemy took a racist measure to deport more than 400 Palestinian citizens from the occupied homeland, stressing its racist nature and its determination to continue its terrorist practices against our heroic people and their brave intifadah as part of its firm policy, aimed at eradicating our people, controlling our land, and entrenching its usurpation plan in our homeland.

This hostile measure took place as part of the Zionist enemy's negative policy, which is based on organized daily killings and mass punishment. These repressive measures increased significantly after terrorist Yitzhaq Rabin became prime minister of the Zionist entity—a terrorist which U.S. media organs and some Arab propaganda trumpets described as a man of peace. These measures constitute a flagrant violation of international norms and charters, UN resolutions, and the Geneva Convention on the treatment of civilians in times of war.

Just as this criminal step has revealed the enemy's nature, intention, and real position, it has also revealed the double standard of the international criteria, as well as that of the U.S. Administration and its Security Council, which has only issued a shy denunciation of the Zionist measures, encouraging through this policy additional measures. Meanwhile, the United States is exploiting the Council to continue its blockade on the Iraqi and Libyan peoples, without any legal reason, and is occupying Somalia's land under false and weak pretexts.

As we, in the Arab Liberation Front, strongly denounce this unjust decision, we believe that this proves the soundness of our view and position toward any form of indifference to this aggression. We also affirm that this measure, as well as other terrorist measures and practices, can only be confronted through a true Palestinian national unity based on the struggle option against this enemy and its practices and goals. The only way to reply to the enemy's threats, plans, and goals is to develop our brave popular intifadah and escalate armed struggle against the occupation.

Our people, who are confronting the enemy and leading the highest form of struggle against it, are capable, along with honorable strugglers from our nation, not only of resisting these measures, but also of formulating a new equation through their consistent endeavor to wrest their full historical, firm right to regain their land and liberate their entire homeland. Revolution until liberation.

Daily Views Israel's Policy

JN2012122692 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has called on the international community to put an end to the declared, official Zionist repression and terrorism against the Palestinian Arab people and to stop the policy of double standards which is used to deal with Arab issues at a time when Zionist intimidation, coercion, and aggression are continuing.

In an article today, the newspaper affirms that the mass deportation of over 417 Palestinians and uprooting them with shackled hands from their homeland is not a mere reaction to the killing of a Zionist soldier. In fact, the Zionists want to exploit this incident to unleash their terrorism and bloodiness against the Palestinian people.

The paper indicates that the Zionist occupation authorities' new terrorist action of mass punishment will probably be disliked by some Arabs, cause signs of concern to appear on their faces, and may stir them to launch enthusiastic rhetorical speeches.

The paper affirms: The policy of deportation, displacement, and uprooting people from their homeland is not a temporary Zionist policy. In fact, it is a constant course of action. Half the Palestinian Arab people now live outside their occupied and usurped homeland.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The escalating cries of "Death to Arabs" from Eytan, a number of Zionist generals, and herds of settlers are meant to be a cover for all their current and future terrorist acts.

Concluding its article, the newspaper says: The biggest shame for the world of today is to remain a mere onlooker at Zionism's crimes and continued transgressions. How great the Palestinian Arab people's will is as they fight to wrench their rights along the path of self-determination and burying the occupation!

Sudanese Minister Claims 'Huge' Oil Stockpile

JN1912155192 Baghdad INA in English 1330 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 18—Sudanese Minister of Finance and Economic Planning 'Abd-al-Rahim Hamdi said his country possessed huge stockpile of crude enough to meet local needs or even export some quantities.

In a press statement here following the conclusion of an Iraqi-Sudanese joint ministers on cooperation in a various domains, the minister pointed out that his country needed investments to develop discovered oilfields to promote oil production potential.

Mr. Hamdi, who led his country's delegation to the 8th session of the Iraqi-Sudanese joint committee meetings, said Iraq is to extend technical expertise on evaluation and oil exploration of three main oilfields in Sudan namely, Higlig, al-Wahdah and Addarrel [name as received] fields according to a protocol signed in Khartoum on 13 instant and a joint minutes signed here Thursday.

"These oilfields were discovered by the U.S. Chevron Co. and some wells were drilled but works had been ceased since 1983 because of the war in the south of the country," the minister elaborated.

He said these oilfields could produce 100,000 b/d [barrels per day] and might be increased to 200,000 b/d but needed efforts and investments.

Asked about the size of investments needed to make these fields operational, he replied 700 to 750 million dollars.

The minister explained that one of these fields had already been explored but with very small quantities.

"After fully exploiting these oilfields, Sudan might export some quantities of crude but oil production would only be enough for local needs because of the huge agricultural expansion in the country," Hamdi explained.

The Sudanese minister made it clear that the arable lands in Sudan increased during the past three years from 10 million hectare to 30 million hectare. "So all oil output would be needed inside the country."

He affirmed that these three oilfields which were relinquished by Chevron Co. to the Sudanese Government were in fact part of huge oilfields a concession of the French Total Co. distributed over the country.

Hamdi stated that explorations on gas onshore the Red Sea have already started while other places near the border with Libya were very promising in oil stockpile.

He noted that his country would be a petroleum state in the near future.

On oil refining, the minister said there was only one refinery in Port Sudan. "Two thirds of the country's oil products comes from this refinery while the rest is imported from the international market," the Sudanese minister concluded.

Reaction to UN Resolution on Deportation Reported

Foreign Ministry Comments

TA1912101292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem says that the UN Security Council's resolution totally ignores the grave background which led to the Israeli Government's action. Israel must adopt measures which will guarantee the safety of its residents and build a dam against the persistent terrorist actions by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad. The Foreign Ministry adds that Israel's drive to promote true peace with its neighbors will continue with full momentum.

Prime Minister's Aide Reacts

TA1912093692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Israel says that, although this is not the first time that the UN Security Council has adopted a one-sided resolution, this time Israel is expressing disappointment because the resolution ignores the nature of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad organizations to which the deportees belong. In a released announcement, Gad Ben-Ari, the prime minister's media adviser, adds that the objective of these two organizations is not only to kill Israelis, but also the peace process. Anybody who holds peace dear to his heart should have received the Israeli Government's decision with understanding.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the government will discuss the Security Council's resolution tomorrow, including the clause demanding the return of the deportees.

UN Envoy Calls Resolution 'One-Sided'

TA1912062492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Excerpts] The UN Security Council has strongly condemned Israel for the deportation of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members and demanded that they be returned at once. [passage omitted]

Gad Ya'aqobi, Israel's UN ambassador, said that the Council's resolution is one-sided and ignores the violence of fundamentalist Muslim organizations and their efforts to murder the peace process.

U.S. Helped 'Soften' Resolution

TA1912100592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0805 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Telephone interview with UN Ambassador Gad Ya'aqobi in New York by Arye Golan in Washington, following the UN Security Council's condemnation of Israel—recorded]

[Text] [Ya'aqobi] The UN Security Council's resolution authorizes the UN secretary general to consider the possibility of sending a representative to the area. He does not have such a duty; he was not entrusted with such a duty. There was a very sharp argument over this clause. An initial proposal by the nonaligned, Muslim, and Arab countries was to impose on him the duty of sending a delegation that would report to the Security Council, which means the possibility of adopting sanctions in the future. Such a resolution was not adopted, and the secretary general is now left with the right to consider this issue. We will try to speak to him, to suggest that an envoy not be sent. We will be in touch with him, placing at his disposal any information required for continued deliberations and follow-up.

[Golan] How about the United States? It supported the strong condemnation leveled at us last night. The Security Council's resolution was adopted unanimously. What does this mean for our relations with the United States in the future?

[Ya'aqobi] In my opinion, this has no significance for our relations with the United States, except in the very short term. Under the circumstances, the United States acted to soften the resolution, and indeed the original proposal raised by the nonaligned countries, which might have won a majority in the Council, was softened in several very significant clauses from our viewpoint. The United States views this as a one-time move. Its position on the removal or deportations of Palestinians or others from the territories has been known for years now. Each time this issue has featured on the Council's agenda, the United States adopted the same position, so its position today was not surprising. The fact that the Council convened so late at night, after a day of discussions among the UN delegations, which lasted over 12 hours, stems among other things from the fact that all day the United States acted to soften the formulation of the resolution, which indeed was softened somewhat.

[Golan] What you are saying, Mr. Ambassador, is that it could have been much worse?

[Ya'aqobi] This certainly could have been the case had there been, for example, a demand to send a delegation, or had there been a clear determination that the Geneva Convention has been violated. In the latter case, UN Security Council rules stipulate that sanctions may be adopted. Such decisions were not made, and this somewhat detracts from the severity of the decisions, which are very harsh as it is, harsher than in similar past cases, I would say.

[Golan] Ambassador Ya'aqobi, thank you very much.

Local, World Reaction to Deportations Continue

Envoy Welcomes Clinton Comment

TA1812190892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Israel's ambassador to Washington predicts that the Palestinians will return to the peace talks despite the

mass expulsion by Israel. In a television interview, Zalman Shoval said that most Palestinians want to come to some sort of an arrangement. He said that Israel would not let Hamas kill the peace process. The ambassador welcomed President-elect Clinton's comments on the dispute, calling them evenly balanced. He said he had no fears of possible change in American policy after Clinton takes over in January.

World Reaction 'Not Too Bad'

TA1912202092 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Report by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik]

[Excerpts] It is not pleasant, but, so far, not too bad. That is how sources in Jerusalem sum up the wave of initial reactions from around the world to the deportation of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists. The Security Council denunciation had been expected. It has occurred many times in the past. The UN demand to return the deportees to their homes was not that bad. Additional possible UN actions against Israel have so far not been implemented. Nevertheless, the UN secretary general and Security Council members can still take some action in the future. The other denunciations which reached Jerusalem tonight are less severe than had been feared. The United States is striking in the mildness of its reaction, compared to the Europeans, who are relatively extreme in their protest, as we have seen. [passage omitted]

Israel will therefore not bring the deportees back, and contrary to rumors, no official dialogue with the PLO is about to start. The prime minister is sure that the peace process will resume on time, probably in February. The immediate damage is therefore to our image. The whole world sees the pictures of the deportees sitting in the freezing cold on the border. In the meantime, it is they who are capitalizing on world public opinion. In reference to the immediate security aspect, the government will now act to restore calm in the territories, continue to move in on Hamas, and explain the background to the deportations abroad. Beyond that, the government will now have to ask itself what it will do in the future, how the peace process can be advanced in order to solve long-range problems and not just temporary ones.

Rabin 'Does Not Regret' Decision

TA2012075392 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 20 Dec 92 pp 1, 13

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Orly Azulay Katz; date and place not given]

[Text] [Katz] Even now, after the UN Security Council has condemned the deportation of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] men and demanded that Israel return them, after serious unrest has started in the territories, and when the continuation of the peace talks is at risk, Yitzhaq Rabin does not regret his government's deportation decision.

[Rabin] The result is less positive than we thought it would be, but the guilty party is the Human Rights Association, which I call the Hamas rights association.

[Katz] Did the government anticipate such a scenario in which the deportees would sit on the border with the whole world crying out against their deportation?

[Rabin] The deportees indeed were not allowed to go to Beirut, but they are sitting 5 km north of the security zone. They are being held up by the Lebanese. None of this would have happened had the association for Hamas rights not filed its appeal. We had Lebanese trucks ready to take them out of the security zone on 17 December, in broad daylight. The Lebanese preparations for preventing the deportees from entering Lebanon were made possible only because of the sweeping and comprehensive appeal that the association filed.

[Katz] Did you not anticipate the possibility of such an appeal being filed?

[Rabin] We had hoped it would not be. The appeal attorneys Zemel and Rosenthal filed was no trouble at all.

[Katz] Would you have changed your decision had you known the outcome of the operation?

[Rabin] Absolutely not. The appeal indeed caused a delay in the entire operation, and it ended in a slightly less positive tone than expected, but it was not because of the government. On 17 December we were poised to carry out the deportation. Had it not been for the appeals, the Lebanese Government would not have had time to get organized, and the operation would have been carried out as planned.

[Katz] Why did you decide to send them by bus?

[Rabin] We had a plan to take the deportees by helicopter, but the rough weather did not allow this. One more thing: Such an operation carried out with helicopters would have taken a lot of time.

[Katz] Cabinet ministers have claimed that they were not presented with all the facts. For example, they claimed that they did not know the number of deportees in question and that they understood the operation only involved a few individuals.

[Rabin] This is rubbish. I told the ministers explicitly that we were not speaking of dozens but of hundreds of deportees. I do not want to argue with anyone, but in the session, Minister Ben-Eli'ezer said that it involved at least 300. In any event, I am willing to assume full responsibility for the operation. I am responsible.

[Katz] A claim has been made that the ministers were told that the intention was to fly them to Europe. Is this true?

[Rabin] Minister Amnon Rubinstein suggested that we offer some of them flights, but this was not practical.

After all, no one could fly if no European country announced that it was willing to receive him, and there was no such country.

[Katz] Did you expect the UN Security Council to react the way it did?

[Rabin] I certainly did not think that it would cheer my decision.

[Katz] There is unrest now in the territories and the peace talks have been terminated. Is this not cause for worry?

[Rabin] Unrest in the territories was expected anyway. I do not believe that the peace talks will stop. Even if the Palestinians fail to show up for the talks, the Arab countries will continue the process with us.

[Katz] What were your considerations for the deportation decision?

[Rabin] We had to choose between going for peace and letting Hamas rear its head.

[Katz] There are rumors that you intend to expand the government. Are they founded?

[Rabin] I do not know. At present, I count on the current government.

Housing Minister Views Results

TA2012091292 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Telephone interview with Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer by Ya'el Dan and Gay Zohar—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Dan] Can you tell us in no uncertain terms that when Israel made the decision on the deportations, it took every possible outcome into consideration, that it's timing and methods were appropriate?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] The truth is that as things look today, we did not take every aspect into consideration, that is, it was not obvious that the situation would develop as it has. We did, however, account for the fact that the world would not remain silent, that there was liable to be an anti-Israeli resolution at the Security Council.

[Zohar] As harsh as it was?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] We did not think it would be that harsh, because we thought that those who voted for the resolution would also give thought to the recent events in Israel and the territories, to the number of fatalities, and to how the late Toledano was butchered.

[Dan] Still, how can you explain the fact that so many unanticipated things happened, such as Lebanon's refusal to let the deportees in?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I believe that Lebanon's reaction is merely a token move, and that eventually Lebanon will allow them in. I would like to draw your attention to what we heard this morning from the deportees themselves, namely, that they do not want to return to Israel, and that they would like to join organizations fighting Israel. I estimate that they will eventually exhaust whatever it is that they want to accomplish with regard to international public opinion and that the world will have to get used to the fact that the State of Israel alone is responsible for the safety of its inhabitants.

[Dan] Did the government give thought to the currently emerging possibility of a rapprochement between the PLO and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] as a result of its act?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I think that in initiating a rapprochement with Hamas, the PLO is making a purely political move. Anyone familiar with the PLO and its makeup will tell you that at least those residing in the territories have realized in recent months that Hamas is the primary enemy of the peace process and the primary threat to the peace delegates' lives. 'Arafat's move is designed to score political points. [passage omitted]

Political Figures Debate Issue

TA2012125592 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 20 Dec 92 p 3

[Report by Pe'erli Shahar]

[Text] Following a series of discussions in Tel Aviv over the weekend at the International Center for Peace in the Middle East, the center issued the following statement: "The International Center for Peace supports the government in its struggle against terrorism through all legal means; however, it opposes the grave steps of collective punishment and deportation the government has taken, which harm human rights and the peace process."

The resolution, which drafted by Labor Knesset Member [MK] Ya'el Dayan and accepted by a majority of the center's members (with two opposing and one abstaining)—further says that the Center for Peace is calling on the government to intensify its effort—in pace and content—to promote the peace talks and strengthen the Palestinian leadership supporting the peace talks in the territories and from the diaspora, including the PLO.

The center also expressed its support for the for the Civil Rights Association, which was portrayed as "supporting inciters" when it executed its legal and moral right to try to prevent the disruption of legal proceedings and violations of human rights.

In the discussion, Meretz Energy Minister Amnon Rubinstein said that had the government not adopted the extreme move of deportation, it would not have been able to hold on, even if it could maintain its technical Knesset majority. Rubinstein added that the government would have lost public confidence and would have not been able to continue functioning. "If it were not for this decision, public confidence in us would have been

eroded. Our current support from a majority of the people is already eroding with every escalation in the security situation," he said.

Rubinstein further remarked that the Meretz ministers discussed the possibility of abstaining from the cabinet vote to "save our necks, but we decided against running away. We are politicians, and we must not avoid decisions. We cannot stand idly by if we want to have an influence on the political issue. We must share the heavy burden as well, or leave the arena. Therefore, there are some days when I would have preferred not to be in the government at all."

Meretz Absorption Minister Ya'ir Tzaban said that they received harsh reactions from some of the party voters but that Meretz had no choice but to accept the decision. He said: "We imagined that the reaction would be harsh, but I believe that we did the right thing despite our hesitations. The atmosphere here was such that there was fear that the citizens would step all over the law. We also had to consider the Ari'el Sharon's call for an emergency national unity government, and we had to prevent this."

Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin criticized the members of the Center for Peace. He said: "If the members of the center convened here only to hear the reasoning behind making the decision and to criticize or accept it, then perhaps this organization should be disbanded. This institution should issue a loud and clear outcry in the name of conscience."

Arab Democratic Party MK 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah noted that the deportation will cause a delay in the peace process. "Rabin has announced that he will not speak to the PLO. I would like to see this center making a clear stand for a change in this policy. Meretz members want peace—and I believe they do—but they are not working for it. There is no one in the Israeli Government today with his hand extended to peace," he said.

MK Nissim Zvili, Labor secretary, said that he does not believe that any person among those present at the discussions in the Center for Peace fully accepts the deportations. At the same time, he warned the members of the center that they might lose all their influence if they adhere to an ideological line without considering the real state of affairs. Zvili added that he cannot and does not want to defend the government's decision.

Meretz Deputy Minister Wahid Sadiq condemned the deportation of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists, adding that this was a mistaken and inhuman act that will yet boomerang. Sadiq called on the government to reconsider its decision and return the deportees to their homes.

The conference was to be attended also by Ministers Shulamit Aloni and 'Uzi Bar'am, but they were unable to attend.

Ministers Reiterate Support

TA2012165792 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Excerpt] The security debate in today's cabinet meeting lasted much longer than planned. Ministers called for a discussion of last week's decision to approve the deportation of 415 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists. Even after security elements, as well as the prime minister, reviewed the sequence of events, and after all the ministers had their say, the government continues to stand united behind the deportation decision.

[Begin recording] [Police Minister Moshe Shahal] If these Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists have declared political aims and use terrorism in order to endanger any peace process, the Israeli Government is permitted to take legal steps, which have political aims, in order to make sure that the peace process has value, significance, and can be depended on. [end recording]

During the security reviews, the security sources disclosed that among the 1,200 Hamas activists detained in the wake of Nissim Toledano's murder, a gang which had planned a mass terrorist attack on a school in Jerusalem's Talpiyyot neighborhood was uncovered.

The first issue raised in the cabinet was the actual number of deportees. Minister Shulamit Aloni said that while she has no doubts about the legality of the orders issued, the precise number of deportees had been unclear at the time. In the wake of the debate those remarks set off, the ministers rushed to the protocols, where they found a quote by Prime Minister Rabin from 16 December's cabinet session approving the deportations. Rabin said: We are not discussing dozens, but higher numbers. That is the quote.

The cabinet was also presented a survey of the Security Council resolution to sharply denounce Israel. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that the information campaign was being conducted on two levels: To show Hamas' true face, and to stress Israel's loyalty to the peace process. We heard about the harm done to Israel's public relations and the reasons from Ministers Shim'on Shetrit and Amnon Rubinstein.

[Begin Shetrit recording] We must continue the information campaign already begun Friday to explain that we took this move after a series of terrorist actions, some of which we managed to prevent. [end recording]

[Begin Rubinstein recording] They are out in the cold because they are being exploited, and are happy about being exploited, as a political weapon against Israel. They are not in no-man's-land, they are in territory under Lebanese sovereignty. They received aid from the Red Cross, and UN Interim Forces in Lebanon, and if need be, we will also help. We have already provided aid and will help further as needed. They are being held there as a showcase. [end recording]

Security elements told the cabinet that the lives of the deportees are not endangered.

Prime Minister Rabin thanked the ministers, especially the Meretz ministers, for their help in explaining the deportations. Rabin noted that Israel has a public relations disadvantage because it is not interested in showing pictures of murdered people. One of the ministers suggested showing pictures of Palestinians murdered by Hamas.

A different debate was held on the behavior of the state attorney in the affair. Attorney General Yosef Harish recalled during his report the time he was detained in Latrun prison [under the British Mandate]. Harish later stressed that the State Attorney's Office did not refuse to represent the state. It was not asked to do so due to the shortage of time. I did not receive any information from the State Attorney's Office because I did not reach Attorney Nili Arad in the middle of the night, Harish said. Minister Hayim Ramon asked: You did not find her at 1100 either?

Ministers Shetrit, Namir, and Ramon attacked the State Attorney's Office for not backing the attorney general. Amnon Rubinstein defended State Attorney Beinish while Justice Minister David Liba'i stressed that she had not refused to appear in court. Prime Minister Rabin summed up by saying that there have been disputes with the State Attorney's Office in the past, but when the office became convinced, the state won the case in court. Rabin said Beinish is the state's attorney, and attorneys defend their clients even on criminal charges. Minister Hayim Ramon said that if the High Court of Justice decides in a month to repeal the deportations, special legislation should be introduced because the expulsions cannot be annulled. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 20 December adds that "the cabinet will hold another session on Wednesday to hear a report from the three delegation heads to the peace talks about the latest round of talks in Washington. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that this decision came in view of the fact that today's entire session was devoted to the deportations and its repercussions."]

Peres Absent From Cabinet Meeting

TA2112114192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has said it is not his job to criticize the government's decision to expel the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists; his concern is how to renew the peace process. In an interview with reporter Jack Katzenell, Peres pointed out that he was out of the country when the decision was taken, and he cannot change the past.

[Begin recording] [Peres] My main concern is how to renew and continue the peace process. I cannot change the past, and I do not want to go into it. I think the most important issue is really how to go on with the peace process, which is, in my judgment, the main and the most important issue.

[Katzenell] You think that the price was too high or the risk too great?

[Peres] Listen, I am not a journalist. I do not have to evaluate it. I was not in the country when the decision was taking place. I am a member of the cabinet, so I am not the man that should evaluate or criticize. My task as a foreign minister basically is to see that the peace process will be continued. [end recording]

Arabs To Protest Deportation

TA2012170192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] Arab municipal councils will go on strike for half a day at noon tomorrow and the entire Arab sector will observe a general strike on Tuesday to protest the deportations. This was decided by Israeli Arab community leaders meeting in Shefar'am. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar adds that the participants also decided to dispatch a solidarity delegation of Israeli Arabs to Gaza this weekend and to increase financial aid to the inhabitants of the territories.

Developments in Palestinian Deportation Detailed

Lists of Deportees Released

TA1812194992 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Our correspondent Fayiz 'Umar reports that the lists of names of the deportees from the West Bank and Gaza Strip are available at the Civil Administration offices in the territories. The public and relatives of the deportees can see those lists in every Civil Administration office in each district. Our correspondent adds that this fact has been conveyed to the mayors and mukhtars so that they can inform the relatives of the names of the deportees.

In a related development, senior security sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that among the deportees are prominent activists from Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad, who had planned terrorist activities and tried to obstruct the peace process.

Those activists are Mustafa Hasayir from al-Birah, Mahmud 'Alyan from Sinjil village in Ramallah district, Hasan Hamid from Baytin village in Ramallah district, Tariq Hamadanah from 'Atil village in Nabulus district, Jamal Mansur from Balatah refugee camp in Nabulus district, Ibrahim Hamamrah from Qusin village in Bethlehem district, 'Ali 'Ubaydat from Bethlehem, Muhammad al- Muhtasab from Bethlehem, and al-Najah University lecturer Musa al- Akhtam from 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' refugee camp in Nabulus district.

Profile of Deportees Published

TA2112100592 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Dec 92 p B2

[Report by Dani Rubinstein]

[Text] Four hundred and fifteen: According to East Jerusalem newspapers, this is the total number of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists expelled from Israel last week. A majority (252) are from the West Bank, and the rest (163) are from the Gaza Strip. About half of the deportees worked in Islamic religious institutions in the territories; however, the deportees do not include members of the military branch of either Hamas or the Islamic Jihad. Some wanted members of these organizations are hiding from the security forces, while others are operating underground and their identity is unknown. Nonetheless, even in East Jerusalem the belief is that the deportees constitute the organizational infrastructure of Hamas.

Among the deportees who worked in religious institutions in the West Bank and Gaza are imams of mosques, preachers, teachers from colleges and religious schools, Shar'iyah court workers, and waqf officials. This category includes a large group of young missionaries who preached religious devoutness. They visited villages, refugee camps, and urban neighborhoods, trying to persuade residents to observe Islam duties: to pray five times a day, to strictly observe the Ramadan fast, to donate to local charity committees (al-zakat), to make the hajj to Mecca, and to lead a moral life.

These Hamas-nurtured young men waged a war on the sale of alcoholic beverages, drug abuse, and prostitution, freely resorting to violence. They gutted a bus transporting boys and girls on joint excursions, attacked women and girls whose heads were not covered (mainly in Gaza), and prevented bands and belly dancers from appearing at weddings. They attacked gambling and pool clubs and battered and even murdered the distributors of pornographic magazines and videotapes.

Some of the deportees worked in entirely different areas. These are the 30 lecturers with academic degrees who taught in Islamic universities—mainly in Gaza and Hebron, the 20 physicians, and the five engineers. These people were instrumental in establishing a network of Islamic educational and welfare institutions, such as clinics, kindergartens, soup kitchens, and organizations that aid prisoners' families, the handicapped, and orphans.

The largest number of deportees, proportionately to the population size, is from Gaza city. The 78 deportees from the Hebron District—mostly from the city itself—constitute the second largest group. The 20 Hebron city deportees are teachers at the local Islamic College, which was the first institution of higher education established with Israeli Civil Administration aid funds in the early 1970's. Contrary to deportee groups from other cities in the territories, the Hebron group includes a large number of members of the city's oldest and most venerable families: five members of the al-Qawasmi family; three from the al-Natshah family; three from the al-Ja'bari family; three from the Nasir al-Din family; and several from the al-Muhtasib, al-Tamimi, Hijazi, and Salhab families.

It should be noted that a vast majority of the deportees are residents of large cities and towns in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, and only a minority are from small villages and refugee camps. Considering their proportion within the population, the number of members of refugee families is small; loyalty to the PLO is still particularly strong among refugees.

The number of deported members of the Islamic Jihad, which is more extreme in its demand for violent activity against Israel and whose operations emphasize the nationalistic rather than the religious facet, stands at several dozen (50 to 60). A relatively large number of these are from Bethlehem.

The most prominent Strip deportees are Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar from Gaza, a physician and the main spokesman for Hamas; and 'Abd-al- 'Aziz al-Rantisi, a professor at the Gaza Islamic College. The most prominent West Bank deportee is Shaykh Hamid al-Baytawi, who heads the Association of Religious Sages in Palestine. He is the Shar'i qadi of the Tulkarm District, who has gained recognition for his sermons at al-Aqsa. The Nablus deportees include, among others, Hajj 'Adli Ya'ish, a wealthy merchant who also heads the Muslim charity committees; Imam Mahir (Haraz); Hajj Nabil al-Bashtawi; Dr. Musa al-Akhtam, a teacher at al-Najah University; and engineer Zuhayr Lahdah. Ramallah is represented by Shaykh Bassam al-Jarrar, the imam of al-Birah's main mosque. A relatively large group of deportees is from Tulkarm and Qalqilyah, whose religious institutions and Islamic college are very active.

The number of deportees aided by Iran is larger than that of deportees affiliated with Jordan and the oil emirates. The relatively recent aid from Iran was pledged to the Hamas military branch in order to carry out terrorist operations and harm the peace process.

Membership in Hamas is not always clearly definable, and the borderline between activists and supporters is uncertain. This may be one of the reasons for the errors made in the course of the mass arrests and deportations. According to Palestinian sources, about 70 detainees were released several hours after being picked up. Thirty-five men were taken off the deportee list at various stages of the arrangements that preceded the deportations. Reporter Tahir Shuraytah from Gaza, for instance, was brought back from the Lebanese border before the buses crossed the border; Shuraytah, who works for REUTER, is a familiar figure among the foreign reporters in Israel, who exerted heavy pressure to secure his release. He was detained at the beginning of last week, after supplying news agencies with reports about the Hamas statement

assuming responsibility for firing at an Army jeep in Hebron, as a result of which a reservist was killed.

After the initial shock following the deportations, the Palestinians began conducting political activities aimed at drawing the PLO, whose activists are in a difficult situation, closer to Hamas. This trend has increased in the wake of Israel's announcements that one of the aims of the blow to Hamas was to help the peace-supporting national Palestinian camp.

Appeal Set in Court 20 Dec

TA1812213492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Attorneys Avigdor Feldman and Andrei Rosenthal have appealed to the High Court of Justice to order the return of the deportees because Lebanon is not prepared to open its border to them. The two state in their appeal that the deportees are located in no-man's land where their is no rule and no basic conditions for survival. It is the duty of the state to assure the deportees relative security, existence, and a framework that will absorb them, and it is inconceivable to deport people into a vacuum, the appeal said. Our correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that the appeal was presented tonight to Justice Buraq, who is the judge on duty. Court registrar Judge Alon Gilon decided that the appeal will be considered 8 a.m. on 20 December by a panel of three justices.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman said tonight that what is happening north of the security zone is merely an attempt to make public relations gains and present 415 activists of a terrorist organization as victims. In reaction to reports around the world, the IDF spokesman said they are now situated in Mazra'at Bayt Nawfal, 5 km north of the security zone, in an area under Lebanese sovereignty and under the full control of its government. The Lebanese Army is deployed there, and so is the Lebanese Red Cross. The IDF spokesman stressed that Lebanon can absorb the expellees [hamurhaqim] as it did in the past with deportees. The spokesman noted that the IDF outfitted all the expellees with warm clothing, blankets, food, and 1,800 Lebanese pounds, which is sufficient for initial needs.

High Court Ruling Postponed

TA2012162092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] The High Court of Justice will issue its ruling on the appeal against the deportation of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members only tomorrow morning. This is reported by our correspondent Mira Amsalem. Before adjourning for consultations, the judges dwelt at length on the question of the status of the no- man's-land where the deportees are staying; specifically, the extent of the Lebanese Government's sovereignty and control over the area.

Army Sets Up Courts

TA2012114592 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Report by army affairs correspondent Netan'el Semrik]

[Text] The 415 deportees have the right to appeal their expulsions over the coming two months via a relative or an attorney. The appeals will be considered by several committees appointed by Major General Dani Yatom, commander of the Central Command, and Major General Matan Vilna'i, commander of the Southern Command. We should note that the committee chairman is a judge from a military tribunal in the territories, and the committee includes two other officer judges. Official military sources noted that if need be, additional appeals courts will be appointed in the coming days.

The defense establishment intends to hear the appeals and complete the deliberations as soon as possible. Lieutenant General Ehud Barak, the chief of staff, made it clear this weekend that the committees can rule against decisions by the generals of the various commands and decide whom to permit to return among the deportees. The military judge advocate said that no appeals have yet been presented.

Conditions in 'Camp' Reported

TA1912112792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Electricity generators and heaters have already been brought to the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad camp north of the security zone, and these allow the 415 deportees to cope with the cold weather. The Red Cross, Hizballah, and other organizations brought tents, mattresses, food, and water to the site. 'Abd-al-'Aziz Rantisi, one of the Hamas leaders, said that he and his colleagues will sit there until they are allowed to return to their homes, and the site may turn into a new Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon. He expressed his contest with the enormous coverage accorded them by the international media. [passage omitted]

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman this morning released details about the Islamic Jihad activist who was detained on suspicion of having planned to assassinate Faysal al-Husayni. The suspect is a resident of the al-'Arrub refugee camp in the Hebron District and a 27-year-old student at Bi'r Zayt University. He was recruited to the Islamic Jihad in Jordan at beginning of the year. His recruiters gave him pistols and 3,500 dinars to buy a vehicle to enable him to perpetrate terrorist acts against Jews. Upon return to the territories he formed a squad whose members named themselves the Khalid Islambuli Squad, named after the man who murdered President al-Sadat.

Lebanese To Push Back Deportees

TA2112081392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Excerpt] The Lebanese Government has said that it has ordered its soldiers in the south to push the 415 deportees back to the security zone. Our correspondent in the north, Yo'av Aviv, reports that there have been no signs so far in the field of such a Lebanese operation.

A senior defense source told our correspondent, Karmela Menashe, that there has been no movement of troops in the field. [passage omitted]

Army Ready for Lebanese Action

TA2112093292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Excerpt] In view of the Lebanese Government order to its Army to push the deportees back to the security zone, security sources in northern Israel told our correspondent there, Yo'av Aviv, that the soldiers have been briefed on how to act in such situations. [passage omitted]

IDF Denies SLA Fire

TA2112103092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] IDF [Israel Defense Force] sources this morning denied that SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers fired at the deportees who were ordered by Lebanese soldiers to go back south to the security zone. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports, however, that the deportees have begun moving south toward the security zone, and that IDF commanders in the region have been instructed on how to act.

Earlier, news agencies reported that an SLA armored unit came out to meet the deportees, preventing their return to the security zone, and that several automatic rounds were fired over the deportees' heads. As said, Israel has denied these reports.

Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that the Voice of the South, the Israeli and SLA radio station, warned the deportees this morning that there are mines at the Zummarayya pass and that barbed-wire fences were erected in the area. The deportees were warned, therefore, that they would be risking their lives if they attempted to cross over into the security zone. The radio broadcast said that the Beirut government and the Lebanese Army bear full responsibility for the possible consequences of the pressure that they have been exerting on the deportees.

In view of the new developments, Attorney 'Imad Dikwar appealed to the High Court of Justice this morning asking that another urgent discussion on the deportees' fate be held before the justices issue their ruling this afternoon. Our correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that the request is being reviewed by Mc'ir Shamgar, president of the Supreme Court, who must decide whether the new circumstances call for a new discussion.

REUTERS Correspondent Released

TA1812145192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Tahir Shuraytah, REUTERS correspondent in the Gaza Strip, detained in the wave of detentions of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists, was released today and sent home to Gaza. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that according to Shuraytah, he was removed at dawn today from a bus taking him to the north, apparently to be deported, and was returned to Gaza prison and from there released.

King Husayn Alerted Israel to Hamas Activities

TA2012072192 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Excerpts] King Husayn recently has alerted Israeli and other elements to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] ventures in the territories, as our Arab affairs correspondent Eldad Beck has learned from Western sources:

[Beck] [passage omitted] King Husayn, who had started out by attempting to defuse the danger of the presence of radical Islamic activists in his country by introducing relatively democratic measures into his country's political life, realized that his moves would not put an end to the subversive activities endangering his regime and causing tension with Israel.

Therefore, he recently has resolved to cooperate with Middle East countries that have declared an all-out war on fundamentalist organizations, such as Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya. Israel also is on that list, although the link with it naturally is indirect. Within the framework of this cooperation, King Husayn relayed detailed warnings to Israeli and other elements describing the alignment and activities of Hamas and its spiritual allies in Jordan and the territories. According to Western sources, the bottom line of these warnings was that unequivocal action must be taken to terminate these organizations' operation both in Jordan and the territories.

'Terrorist' Planning To Kill Al-Husayni Detained

TA1812151892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] The security forces recently detained an Islamic Jihad activist who planned to assassinate Faysal al-Husayni, an Israeli Defense Forces spokesman said. Correspondents Karmela Menashe and Moti Amir report that the terrorist planned to kill Al-Husayni in a public event in Jerusalem also attended by the media. The terrorist's interrogation continues.

Peres To 'Integrate' Arabs, Israelis in Ministry

NC2012072292 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 17-23 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] Underlining the need to build a new Middle East, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said he will appoint the first Arab-Israeli as ambassador to a foreign capital, which he did not name, in the near future.

Peres, in an interview with AL-AHRAM WEEKLY, stressed the importance of the multilateral talks on regional cooperation, declaring: "We have to remove the desert from the region, remove the salt from the sea water and remove the extremism from the souls."

Asked whether he had plans to integrate Arab-Israelis into the Foreign Ministry, Peres said: "In the near future, I will appoint an Arab to the post of Israeli ambassador in one of the foreign capitals.

"In the past, I was the first Minister of Foreign Affairs to appoint an Arab as Israeli Consul-General in Atlanta, Georgia, a city with a big Jewish community," Peres said.

"This appointment proved a big success."

Peres noted that the Israeli Foreign Ministry announced recently that it would accept Arabs as members in the diplomatic corps after a two-year training period. "They will get an equal chance with Israeli Jews in appointments and in being promoted to the higher echelons of the diplomatic field," he said.

On the bilateral Middle East peace talks now taking place in Washington, peres would only say that he is optimistic. "We in the Foreign Office always work in an atmosphere of optimism. People here are optimistic."

But he spoke at length of the multilateral talks, taking place in a variety of world capitals, noting that they grouped together 12 Arab countries as well as Israel and 30 other states.

"This is the first precedent of its sort," Peres said. "It gives us a chance to create new ideas concerning the future." Declaring that the bilateral and multilateral talks must move "in parallel lines," Peres said: "The multilateral talks make plans for the future, while the bilateral talks cope with solving the problems of the past.

"We must put an end to the Israeli-Arab conflict and build a new Middle East," Peres said. "We must create a situation in the region in which new problems can no longer develop."

Noting that the multilateral talks deal with such regional problems as water resources and economic development, Peres said: "If there were an agreement on the Golan, for instance, without plans for the water problem, such agreement would not be practical. Preparing the plans needs two or three years, during that time peace can be achieved," he said.

Peres said the nations of the Middle East have such common enemies as the "desert, poverty and extremism." He added that Egypt has a leading role in this connection which is much appreciated in Israel.

Peres said much of the Middle East's resources, which could have been used for economic and social development, were being wasted. "The Gulf war cost $620 billion. With this money we could have transformed the Middle East," he said.

"In the past 10 years, the countries of the region spent $700 billion on building. Most of this money went into the pockets of foreign companies. It could have been spent employing local companies and easing the unemployment problem," he said.

Reaction to Israel's Deportation of Palestinians

King Criticizes Expulsions

JN1912160892 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn yesterday visited the offices of the U.S. television network Cable News Network, CNN, in Atlanta, where he was briefed on its services and met with CNN Director Tom Johnson and several senior CNN editors and producers.

CNN's "The World Today" program conducted an interview with His Majesty King Husayn on the latest Middle East developments. During the interview, his majesty the king criticized the deportation of more than 400 Palestinians from the occupied territories, saying: Now, 400 Palestinians have been deported. What will happen next? Will 4,000, 400,000 people, or more be deported? When will there be an end to this state of affairs? His majesty the king added: The Palestinians have rights and territory which must be recognized.

Regarding Jordan's commitment to dispatch troops to Somalia, his majesty the king affirmed that Jordan contributed aid to Somalia through the United Nations in the past. He added that Jordan's commitment to dispatch troops there is a continuation of our commitment to work to end the nightmare there. Besides, this will be in line with Jordan's concern to perform its humanitarian duties in this region.

During his tour of the CNN offices, His Majesty King Husayn was accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Nur; His Highness Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad, military adviser to his majesty the king; Her Highness Princess Ghayda' Talal; Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; and several senior Jordanian officials.

Earlier yesterday, His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur met with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and his wife at the Carter Center, where they reviewed international issues. Former President Carter expressed his support and backing for the Jordanian democratization process and Jordan's role in the peace negotiations.

Order Called 'Outrageous'

JN1912081992 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Dec 92 pp 1, 4

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Excerpt] Amman—Jordan Friday described as "absolutely outrageous and totally unacceptable" Israel's expulsion of over 400 Palestinians from the occupied territories and said the plight of the expelled Palestinians stranded between the Israeli and Lebanese armies showed the world the injustice that the Palestinian people had been suffering under Israeli occupation.

Information Minister Mahmud al-Sharif also called on the international community to intervene and ensure that Israel reverses its expulsion order and permits the Palestinians to return home.

The Israeli occupation authorities transported 415 Palestinians from the occupied territories to the Jewish state's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon late Thursday but the Lebanese army blocked their entry to Lebanon beyond the 1,000-square-kilometer enclave.

As the expelled tried to reenter the "security zone," they found it sealed off, effectively stranding them between areas controlled by the Israeli and Lebanese armies.

"The expulsion and the plight of those expelled shows in very graphic lines the injustice that the Palestinian people have been suffering for years," said Mr. al-Sharif.

The minister said the international community "should shoulder the responsibility of finding an immediate solution" to the stand-off in South Lebanon and ensure that the expelled Palestinians were allowed to return to their homes.

Israel ordered the expulsions in extremist retaliation for the abduction and killing of an Israeli border policeman last week.

Mr. al-Sharif accused the Israeli occupation authorities of "turning the occupied territories into a battleground by killing Palestinians" and said it was natural that the Palestinians would "retaliate for the murder of their own people by the Israelis."

"Israel cannot punish the entire Palestinian nation" for the killing of one of its policemen, Mr. al-Sharif told the Jordan Times, noting that the international community has categorically rejected such "collective punishment."

Mr. al-Sharif also noted that Jordan had made its views very clear to the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and exerted all efforts on the international level to prevent the expulsions.

Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jaber summoned the heads of the diplomatic missions in Amman of the five Thursday to lodge a strong protest and urge their countries to seek a reversal of the Israeli move, "a flagrant violation of the Geneva conventions and human rights."

The expulsions, he said, could deal a severe blow to the Middle East peace process.

"Tension in the occupied territories could be defused only through serious efforts to ensure the success of the peace process and the achievement of a comprehensive and durable settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict," Dr. Abu-Jaber said.

The Foreign Ministry also asked Jordan's permanent delegate to the U.N. in New York to convey the Kingdom's views to the General Assembly and the Security Council and

seek their intervention to avert a "further deterioration of the situation in the occupied territories."

Jordan also asked its representative in Geneva to raise the issue with the chairman of the U.N. Human Rights Commission. [passage omitted]

Senate Condemns Expulsion

JN2012144292 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] The Senate has strongly condemned Israel's expulsion of more than 400 Palestinian citizens from their homeland. It considered this measure a continuation of Israel's occupation policy of expulsion and repression against the Palestinian people and saw it as another violation of the Geneva Conventions and the international charters that guarantee all human rights.

In a statement issued today, the Senate said that it considers this measure a new form of Israel's rebellion against international legitimacy which reveals the real face of the occupation policy. The Senate also viewed the intifadah as a legitimate militant action to fight colonialism on the land of Palestine and against its people and as a natural result of the continuation of the occupation. The Senate stressed that the only remedy to the worsening situation in the occupied territories lies in reaching a comprehensive and just settlement.

House Condemns Action

JN1912160992 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] The House of Representatives issued a statement today condemning, denouncing, and rejecting the Israeli occupation authorities' decision to deport more than 400 Palestinians from their lands into areas outside occupied Palestine.

The statement affirmed that this barbarous and ugly crime is a flagrant defiance of the world conscience and of international law and norms, not to mention the fact that it is a blatant violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, which places on Israel, in its capacity as an occupying force, moral, legal, and political responsibilities.

The statement added: This inhuman and unethical move is a continuation of the repressive Israeli policy being pursued against the Palestinian people. Moreover, this act is an initial step meant to pave the way for the implementation of a collective eviction policy with a view to evicting Palestinians from their land. This will only exacerbate regional tension and torpedo the efforts made to ensure progress in the peace process.

The House of Representatives urged Arab, Islamic, and international parliaments to firmly oppose the Israeli measures. It also appealed to the international community to intensify its efforts to rid the Palestinian people of the injustice being meted out to them, to enable them to exercise their legitimate rights to independence and self-determination, and to make Israel honor international charters and resolutions.

'Crime of Deportation'

JN1912105092 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic 19 Dec 92 pp 1, 25

[Editorial: "Israel Philosophizes on the Crime of Deportation"]

[Text] Israel was not satisfied with the crime of collective deportation which it committed against hundreds of Palestinians. It philosophized on this crime in its media, claiming that this deportation aims to defend peace. It is obvious that such a claim would neither deceive anybody nor mitigate the wave of indignation expressed by many parties in the world who are involved in the peace process.

Crime was never a way to entrench peace in any part of the world, because peace ethics are different from criminal ethics. Needless to say, those who deported the Palestinians are far from complying with peace requirements. Such requirements call for accepting the principle of land for peace, implementing Resolutions 242 and 338, and recognizing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination on their land.

Peace cannot be achieved by stabbing it. Israel severely stabbed the peace process when it committed the biggest crime of deportation the day before yesterday. The statements in which Israeli officials announce that Israel will continue the work for the sake of peace cannot mitigate the echo of the crime.

Israel's terrorism in the occupied territories—the peak of which is the recent crime of deportation—is an attempt to assassinate the peace process. This attempt represents a challenge to all international laws and treaties, particularly the fourth Geneva Convention on the conditions of civilians in occupied territories.

Jordan has called on the permanent members of the Security Council to shoulder their responsibility toward the recent Israeli crime. We hope that these countries and all peace-loving people in the world will work to return the Palestinian deportees to their homes, to convince Israel to accept peace as the final option, and to call on Israel to comply with peace opportunities and to relinquish the criminal acts it is committing against the great Palestinian people.

Foreign Minister Condemns Killings in Gaza Strip

JN2012124392 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir has condemned the killing of six Palestinians in Gaza by Israeli occupation forces yesterday. The foreign minister called

on all countries to condemn the crime, which he described as a model of the ugliness of the Israeli occupation.

He said that escalation of repressive measures against the Palestinian people would bar the creation of the appropriate climate for the continuation of the peace process.

Prime Minister Receives Danish Delegation

JN1912171792 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received at his office at the Prime Ministry at noon today Steen Christensen, secretary general of the Danish Social Democratic Party, and his delegation, which is currently on a fact-finding tour of the Middle East.

During their meeting, the officials reviewed the latest international and regional developments, particularly those related to the Middle East region, the outcome of Christensen's talks, and the good impressions he formed during his visit to Jordan, where he met with various parliamentary and government officials.

Talks also touched on the repercussions of Israel's decision to deport more than 400 Palestinians from the occupied Arab territories. The prime minister and the guest party official agreed that this decision is a form of collective punishment that contravenes the peace process and violates the Fourth Geneva Convention. They welcomed the UN Security Council [UNSC] resolution which condemned the Israeli measure and showed in no uncertain terms Israel's intransigence with regard to the implementation of international resolutions, particularly Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which are deemed the basis and proper foundations for the achievement of a just, comprehensive, and durable settlement that would ensure the restoration of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights on their national soil.

House Passes Amendment To Draft Security Law

JN2112111992 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Dec 92 pp 1,5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ayman al-Safadi]

[Excerpts] Amman—Feeling the negative political repercussions of its endorsement of what is generally perceived as an oppressive press and publications law, the Lower House of Parliament Sunday decided to give its members more time to study the proposed legislation.

The House passed a landmark amendment to the draft state security law to allow the right of appeal against sentences passed by the State Security Court.

Under the amendment adopted by the House, convicts of the State Security Court could appeal the verdict at the Court of Appeals in 30 days from the date of the ruling. In addition, it also makes it obligatory on the part of the State Security Court to refer all sentences involving the death penalty or over 10 years in jail.

The right of appeal had been one of the key demands of local political activists as well as Arab and international human rights organizations as an essential component of a judiciary system which ensures fair trial.

Towards the end of a three-hour session, the House put off till Wednesday debate of the controversial press and publications draft law after listening to arguments that the law conflicts with the pluralistic political environment that the country is trying to establish. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the House approved the draft state security law as amended by the Law Committee. The draft law was vetoed by His Majesty King Husayn and returned to the House during its third ordinary session last year.

The House then voted on the draft law in a joint session with the Upper House of Parliament but failed to muster the two-third majority that the Constitution requires to overturn the King's veto if the law is put to vote again in the same ordinary session in which it was adopted.

However, the House did not need a two-third majority to pass the draft legislation Sunday because the Constitution says a simple majority is needed to pass the draft law if it is voted on in the ordinary session following the one in which its was vetoed by the King.

After thoroughly studying (the draft law) and the reasons for which it was not ratified (by the king)," the Law Committee decided to amend articles two, three and four of the 10-article draft legislation.

The committee amended Article 2 of the law to read: "in special circumstances necessitated by public interest, the prime minister has the right to set up one or more special courts called the State Security Court, each comprising three civil judges and/or military judges appointed by the prime minister in the case of civilian judges and by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the case of military judges."

The article originally restricted the number of military judges in the court to two and said that civilian judges appointed to the court had to be of the rank of an under-secretary in the civil service.

The committee added two new clauses to Article 3, which gives the State Security Court the right to try civilians or members of the security forces who commit crimes against state security, violate the law on the protection of confidential government documents and other cases related to forgery, drugs and financial and economic crimes.

The committee also amended Article 4 of the draft law to read: "The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff appoints the director of the military judiciary or one of his assistants as general prosecutor at the State Security Court and can appoint one or more military judges as assistants to him. (The chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff) can also appoint

a military judge or more as general prosecutors in accordance with the authority given to all of them under the codes of criminal procedures."

The article originally gave the right to appoint general prosecutors to the minister of justice.

The draft law will now be sent to the Upper House of Parliament for approval and will have to be signed by the King before it is adopted as a law.

It will replace the 1959 State Security Law. [passage omitted]

Deportees' Situation in Buffer Zone Reported

Some Deportees Said Injured

NC1812172792 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] What about the actual situation concerning the deportees? Until 1430 today, the Palestinian deportees were waiting in the buffer zone between Zummarayya, a town north of Hasbayya in which the Israeli occupation forces and the agent militia [South Lebanese Army] are deployed, and the Marj al-Zuhur triangle, where the Lebanese Army is deployed.

The deportees are awaiting the outcome of the ongoing contacts concerning their fate. The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Zahlah says that the Lebanese Army units deployed at a checkpoint in Marj al-Zuhur have begun implementing the cabinet decision to prevent the deportees from entering the liberated land. The deportees are currently 4 km away from the Lebanese Army checkpoint in Marj al-Zuhur and 1 km away from the Zummarayya checkpoint, manned by Lahd agents.

A military source said that the deportees are in poor health and that they are suffering from wounds received from gunfire by the Israeli enemy deployed at Zummarayya checkpoint.

The Lebanese Army has contacted humanitarian organizations in Zahlah and Beirut to secure needed food and medicine.

At noon a representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross arrived at the scene to inspect the situation concerning the deportees. Several vehicles of the Lebanese Red Cross also arrived at the scene and Lebanese physicians provided first aid to a number of the deportees. The Lebanese Red Cross took a man who was in serious condition to the hospital for treatment.

Red Cross Delivers Food

NC1812180892 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Three International Red Cross trucks carrying food supplies and blankets have arrived in the buffer zone in the south. A Red Cross ambulance gave medical treatment to more than 10 Palestinian deportees who were suffering from injuries ranging from leg and wrist fractures and inflammation of the legs resulting from being bound with iron chains by the Israelis.

International Red Cross employees are conducting a careful headcount of the deportees after distributing approximately 100 tents, foodstuffs, and blankets to them.

Our correspondent in the south says that around 50 foreign correspondents were snowbound in the Marj al-Zuhur area where the deportees are.

Hizballah Tries To Meet Deportees

NC1812195592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1933 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] According to security sources, a number of Hizballah members have attempted to infiltrate the buffer zone to meet some of the members of the Islamic Jihad and Hamas, but the Lebanese Army turned them back.

SLA Opens Fire Near Camp

NC1912164892 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] The South Lebanese Army [SLA] in Marj al-Zuhur this afternoon for no apparent reason opened fire on the hills surrounding the camp that 415 Palestinian deportees established in the area yesterday. The SLA elements, deployed 1 km from the camp, fired one mortar and several bursts of automatic gunfire.

The latest head count, published by the Israeli Army today, shows that Israel has deported 415 Palestinians—not 417, as previously announced—including 163 from Gaza and 252 from the West Bank. The Israeli military command has informed the deportees' families and the International Committee of the Red Cross of the names of the deportees.

A spokesman for the Palestinian deportees said that 400 of them are Hamas members and 15 are Islamic Jihad members.

In an urgent report from the occupied territories, Palestinian medical sources have said that five Palestinians, including a 10- year-old girl, were killed by bullets during clashes with Israeli soldiers in Khan Yunus, in the Gaza Strip, today.

Management Committee Formed

NC1912182392 Paris AFP in English 1735 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Report by Nagib Khazaka]

[Text] Marj al-Zuhur, Lebanon, Dec 19 (AFP)—A new Palestinian refugee camp took shape Saturday on a snowy hillside in this frozen no-man's-land between Israel and Lebanon.

Its 415 dwellers, expelled for up to two years by Israel for their links to the radical fundamentalist Hamas and Islamic Jihad organizations, baptized their makeshift quarters the "camp of return."

The name was "to demonstrate to Israel and the United States our determination to go home," 'Umar Salih al-Farawinah from the occupied Gaza Strip told AFP.

But the doctor warned that "if the (U.N.) Security Council and international public opinion don't force Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to halt the deportation of an entire people, our stay in this no-man's land between Marj al-Zuhur and Zummarayya will drag on."

The Palestinians had already formed a camp management committee. One member told AFP that 400 of the deportees were members of Hamas, which abducted and killed an Israeli soldier last Sunday, and the others were members of Islamic Jihad.

On Friday, the Security Council condemned Israel for the deportations but the Jewish state said it would not reverse its decision, which it took in retaliation for a series of attack by fundamentalists.

Shivering on a rock at the foot of snow-capped Mount Hermon, 'Ali Abu-al-Qas, 60, reminisced: "We set up tents in Gaza for the Palestinians chased out in 1948 and promised them they would return," he said referring to the creation of Israel that year in British mandated Palestine. And then "Gaza was occupied itself in 1967," he added.

Lebanon has 13 refugee camps sheltering about 350,000 Palestinians.

Shaykh 'Abdallah Shami, sitting cross-legged on a folded green tent, said committees had been formed to deal with administration, food, health and prayers.

"It's very cold and we have to organize our survival here," he said.

Red Cross official Alain Roth said he was amazed by the fundamentalists' spirit of organization.

"We didn't have to do anything to set organise [as received] the camp. We delivered supplies, tents, blankets, mattresses and candles and they managed the rest themselves," he said.

The Red Cross and other humanitarian groups have provided four blankets per person as protecting against the freezing temperatures.

"The Palestinians, particularly those who were in Israeli jails, have a great capacity for endurance because of the maltreatment they suffered," Roth said. "They can hold out for a long time, maybe even two months."

Muhammad Judi, a 30-year-old engineer, said: "I'm not afraid of the cold. The Israelis made a cold draft blow through my cell, which we called 'the tomb', and we're used to being without food or water."

The Lebanese army was controlling access to the camp and only allowing in officials, religious leaders and the media.

A Lebanese lieutenant told a member of the management committee that the Palestinians should stay inside the camp because it was "within range of Israeli guns", and pointed to a hill two kilometers (1.2 miles) away.

A mortar round and gunfire, coming from positions of the pro-Israeli South Lebanon Army, struck hills surrounding the camp but caused no casualties, correspondents at the scene said, adding that the incident was apparently unprovoked.

Mustafa Sha'ur, a professor at Hebron University, said that deportations were aimed at "cleaning up" the territories before granting Palestinians limited autonomy, under a plan "which we have already rejected.

Army Prevents PLO Visit

NC2012164492 Paris AFP in English 1623 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] Marj al-Zuhur, Lebanon, Dec 20 (AFP)—Lebanese Army troops on Sunday prevented the PLO representative in Lebanon from visiting 415 Palestinians deported to a freezing no-man's land here, citing "security reasons."

Shafiq al-Hut was leading an 18-member delegation of representatives from Palestinian political and union movements, including Yasir 'Arafat's mainstream Fatah faction, an AFP correspondent reported.

They were stopped at an army checkpoint at Marj al-Zuhur, on the northern edge of Israel's self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon, and told by an officer they could not proceed for "security reasons."

Al-Hut told AFP he pleaded with the army command to reverse the decision but without success.

"We wanted to see the (Palestinian) militants to boost their morale and warm their hearts in these freezing conditions," he said.

Several Lebanese MPs [Members of Parliament], mainly from the Sunni fundamentalist al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah group, as well as political and religious leaders have been allowed by the army to visit the deportees since they were expelled by Israel on Thursday.

Most of the deportees are members of the Palestinian Muslim fundamentalist movement, Hamas, which has clashed with the PLO in the past over the PLO's backing of the Middle East peace talks.

However, the pro-PLO unified leadership of the uprising in the occupied territories and Hamas on Sunday issued their first-ever joint statement calling for escalating the "holy war" against the Israelis.

Army 'Pushing' Toward Border

NC2112065592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0632 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Just in from the editor's desk: A military source said a short while ago that the Lebanese Army issued orders banning all humanitarian institutions, including the International Red Cross, and all aid convoys from traveling toward the area where the Palestinian deportees are located. The Army advised the deportees to return to from where they came.

Internal security and Lebanese Army forces are pushing the deportees to Zummarayya toward the occupied area.

Minister Denies Pushing Deportees

NC2112095992 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has denied reports that the Lebanese Army pushed the Palestinian deportees toward the border strip. He said that the Army Command's decision to prevent entry to the area in which the deportees are camping by representatives of the Red Cross and humanitarian organizations was taken to protect those heading for the region, which is within Israeli firing range.

Dallul contacted Interior Minister Bisharah Mirhij today.

Deportee Said Wounded by Shell

NC2112110392 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1030 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Excerpt] According to the latest reports from the south, the Palestinian deportees left by foot this morning from their camp in Marj al-Zuhur toward the Zummarayya checkpoint, which is under agent [Antoine Lahd's] control. They were preceded by scholars who held high their Koran copies. When they arrived at a point 500 meters from the agents' position, two enemy helicopters flew over them and artillery and machine-gun fire started to rain on the area.

Two tanks belonging to the agent militias advanced, stopped 100 meters away from the march, and started machine-gun fire in the area. A shell landing in the area wounded a deportee. [passage omitted]

Deportees Praise UN, Comment on Conditions

NC1912114492 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Excerpts] The UN Security Council has unanimously condemned Israel's decision to deport 417 Palestinians from the occupied territories. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the Security Council resolution, 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, one of the Palestinian deportees, told our radio: We consider it positive; it made the deportees happy. We demand that it be implemented immediately before our brothers in this difficult place develop serious problems.

On the night they stayed here, he said it was very rough. He explained: There is severe cold, and the means to adapt to this weather are not available. I fear that torrential rain and frost may hit us after some time, and this will cause major unpredictable problems. Therefore, we hope that our problem will be solved promptly before there are undesirable complications.

Al-Rantisi thanked the Islamic Group, the Progressive Socialist Party, and Hizballah for their early arrival to assist them. He also thanked the Red Cross and the relief organization [not further specified] for the services they extended. He said: We hope these efforts will be redoubled to ensure a suitable life for us here before we return home.

Appeal to Tunis Leadership Noted

NC2012144792 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] The Palestinian deportees held a meeting to discuss their situation this morning.

Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, head of the camp's information committee, has addressed a call to the conferees in Tunis asking them to reach an agreement with Hamas to raise the morale of the families and re-escalate the intifadah, because peace for Rabin means firing bullets at our sons, women, the elderly, and children.

In a statement to reporters, al-Rantisi said Israel is trying to justify the deportation of hundreds of our Palestinian people, adding that these attempts have been exposed. He noted that the deportation took place without legal justification or trials.

He said: We affirm to the world that we intend to stay here without weapons, because there are other men to take up arms. Israel has emptied the occupied land of its educated people and the brains of Palestinian society and wants to wreck the higher institutes. It has deported 25 lecturers from Gaza's Islamic University.

He noted that distorting facts and calling the deportees terrorists is something Rabin and his government have planned. He said: We do not know terrorism and we demand to be returned to our sons.

Statement Calls for Support

NC1912152092 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] The Palestinian deportees issued a statement this morning outlining the occupation forces' arbitrary measures, especially the deportation.

They appealed to the Lebanese Government to maintain its brave nationalist stand in not opening Lebanese territory to further deportations. They also appealed to the Arab delegations participating in the negotiations, especially the Palestinian delegation, to withdraw immediately from the negotiation hall and refuse to return.

The statement called on the people in the occupied land to be patient and steadfast and assured that everyone's health is good and morale is high.

The statement appealed to the United Nations, international human rights organizations, the International Red Cross, and Amnesty International to carry out their duties to pressure the Israeli authorities into rescinding their arbitrary decision.

The statement also addressed an appeal to all free people of the world to stand by the deportees to help them

return to their families and children to provide them with food, drink, affection, and care.

Al-Hariri Discusses Deportees With PLO Official

NC1812204992 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri tonight received PLO Beirut Office Director Shafiq al-Hut and discussed with him Israel's decision to deport Hamas members to Lebanon, the government's refusal to receive the deportees in areas under its control, and the decision to close the Zummarayya-Marj al-Zuhur crossing. Al-Hariri informed al-Hut of Lebanon's call on the UN Security Council to convene to discuss the Lebanese complaint. Al-Hut expressed the PLO's appreciation of the Lebanese position.

Coordinates With Syria

NC2012120992 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] Press sources have reported that Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has telephoned Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam within the context of coordination between the two countries and to take a united stand on the issue of the deportation of Palestinians from the occupied territories.

Says Stand Remains 'Unchanged'

NC2112071792 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has reiterated that the Lebanese stand on the Palestinians' deportation remains unchanged. He said that the Israeli Government is still responsible for the deportation decision, which conflicts with the principles of international law, particularly the Geneva Convention.

Al-Hariri expressed regret over the severe and inhumane conditions under which the deportees are living. He said, however, that this will not change the Lebanese Government's stand, which supports the deportees' right to return to their homeland.

The prime minister was reacting to the stand declared by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Foreign Minister Meets Press on Deportations

NC1812143092 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Dec 92

[News conference by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz with unidentified correspondents at the Lebanese Foreign Ministry in Beirut on 18 December—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Will Lebanon ask for a UN Security Council meeting to discuss the issue of the deportees and their return to their homes?

[Buwayz] We believe the Israeli decision to expel Palestinian citizens primarily represents a wounding and wrecking of the peace process. There is no doubt that this decision will adversely affect the course of the negotiations. The Lebanese Government believes that the natural place of residence of these citizens is Palestine and the land of Palestine. Therefore, we reject the Israeli decision to send the Palestinians to Lebanese territory, just as the Palestinians also reject this decision. We have summoned the ambassadors of the permanent members of the Security Council. We will discuss with them the means to return the expelled Palestinians to their homeland, Palestine.

[Correspondent] Doyen Milhim Karam has said that the humanitarian aspect will be considered. Will this aspect allow the deportees to enter Lebanese territory?

[Buwayz] No, the humanitarian aspect is confined only to helping the Red Cross and the UN Relief and Works Agency where they are present.

[Correspondent] If efforts to persuade Israel to repatriate the deportees fail, will Lebanon continue with the peace talks?

[Buwayz] In fact, we will meet the ambassadors this afternoon to discuss the merit of submitting a complaint to the Security Council. Concerning the talks, we will consult with the concerned Arab parties to adopt a united stand.

Describes Complaint on Deportees

NC1812173992 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Dec 92

[News conference by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz with unidentified correspondents at the Lebanese Foreign Ministry in Beirut on 18 December—recorded]

[Text] [Buwayz] We have summoned the ambassadors of the permanent members of the UN Security Council to ask them for their countries' support for Lebanon's complaint to the Security Council, which is called upon to adopt economic, political, and security measures against Israel. We have also asked the governments of the five permanent members to intercede directly with Israel. Apart from possible resolutions that might be issued by the Security Council, we have asked these governments to adopt measures and decisions to ensure that the Palestinian citizens are returned to the occupied territories.

We have asked the ambassadors that this direct intercession be accompanied by economic or political measures between them and the Israeli Government.

[Correspondent] Have you received any response from the ambassadors?

[Buwayz] Naturally, we have not obtained immediate responses from the ambassadors. We should give them the chance to contact their governments.

[Correspondent] Can Lebanon include in the complaint a call on the Security Council to adopt the measures you have mentioned?

[Buwayz] The complaint contains a call for a meeting of the Security Council, an issuance of a resolution calling for the return of the deportees, and certain compulsory measures.

[Correspondent] What will happen to the plight of the deportees?

[Buwayz] The Lebanese Government has given the chance to the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] and UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency] to carry out their humanitarian tasks in full. Naturally, this includes all kinds of food and medical aid on a temporary basis.

[Correspondent] Don't you expect that their stay in the buffer zone will turn into a small camp?

[Buwayz] No, which is why I explained that ICRC and UNRWA aid should only be of a temporary and humanitarian nature. When we say temporary, it means that they would provide the Palestinian citizens there with the necessary and temporary aid.

[Correspondent] Is there a possibility that you will defer the issue to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL]?

[Buwayz] Naturally. From the beginning the Army Command asked UNIFIL to intervene in preventing the Palestinians from crossing UNIFIL lines.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct]

[Buwayz] Lebanon's permanent UN representative has submitted a complaint and has requested a Security Council meeting. We expect the situation to clear up in the next few hours.

Comments on UN Resolution

NC1912124792 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1205 GMT 19 Dec 92

[News conference by Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz with unidentified correspondents on 19 December on the UN Security Council resolution on the deportation of Palestinians; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Buwayz] While the Security Council resolution includes an unambiguous condemnation of Israel over the deportation of the Palestinian citizens, it does not include—as we wished—clear and explicit sanctions, which probably would have guaranteed Israel would not repeat the action and which would have forced it to return the deportees.

[Correspondent] Do you expect the resolution to be implemented?

[Buwayz] I hope the world community will realize that its credibility is being tested. If it remains silent about this issue—which is similar to the Nazis' methods during World War II—then there will be room for further acts of aggression.

[Correspondent] Have you been informed that an envoy will arrive to implement the resolution?

[Buwayz] Consultations on his arrival are being held. We are awaiting final word.

International Community 'Test'

NC2112065392 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has stated that the Security Council resolution on the deportees issue did not include unequivocal sanctions that we wished for. He said: I hope that the international community will realize that its credibility is facing a test. If the international community remains silent about the deportation of Palestinians, which resembles the Nazi method used in World War II, it will open the way for other acts of aggression.

Minister: Decision Not To Accept Deportees Final

NC1912180192 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Michel Karam dispatch from Tripoli]

[Excerpt] We have no intention of deciding to allow the deportees to enter Lebanese territory. Such a decision would open the door for Israel to increase the numbers of deportees because this group will not be the last. We will not show any leniency about this and the government's decision cannot be retracted.

These remarks were made by [Labor] Minister 'Abdallah al-Amin in response to questions by reporters in Tripoli this evening in the presence of 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, member of the regional command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Syria. A meeting was held between Chamber of Deputies member 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Abd-al-Rahman, Minister al-Amin, a number of members of women's organizations and northern activist organizations, and al-Ahmar.

Al-Amin continued: Proceeding from this, we hold international public opinion responsible for issuing an immediate resolution to return these people to their homes, especially the United States. He stressed that the Security Council should implement its resolution; its resolutions are implemented in some places, but not in others.

He obliquely criticized the Security Council by considering its resolution an American one. He also said he holds the big powers responsible.

In response to a question, he said we do not intend to break off relations with anyone. But the decision made

yesterday to continue negotiations was agreed on by all Arab countries. We are a part of the whole and cannot decide to take part in the talks alone. Nor can we make the decision to boycott the talks alone.

'Abdallah al-Ahmar said: We can realize our objectives in the next stage because the Lebanese people have a lot of vitality. We are eager to maintain our meetings since Syria and Lebanon are one people. President al-Asad expressed this idea by saying that we are one people in two states. What God has united cannot be separated by man. We will continue to be a strong base for our nation in the region. Problems only make our people stronger, firmer, and more capable of giving and contributing. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister: Receiving Deportees 'Impossible'

NC2012104592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has emphasized that it is impossible to receive the Palestinian deportees. We refuse to be an outlet for the anger of any other policy in the region [fashshat khuliq li ayy siyaasah ukhra fil mintaqah], he stressed.

Viewing the Israeli conduct as hostile toward Lebanon, Dallul said: Whenever Israel sees our peace march proceeding rapidly, it fabricates problems to obstruct and confuse it. We adhere to our stand; we are in a stronger position, because we are armed with the UN Security Council ruling. This enables us to address the international community from a strong position. Dallul added: We hold the international community, the humanitarian organizations, and the entire world responsible for this serious issue.

UNIFIL Said To Support Government Decision

NC1812145092 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Excerpt] A United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] source has told our radio that UNIFIL supports the Lebanese Government's decision to prevent the Palestinian deportees from entering Lebanese territory and will adhere to whatever the responsible authorities decide. He explained that since the deportation process began, UNIFIL imposed strict control on the crossings and sent mobile patrols across the contact lines to prevent any Israeli attempt to discharge the Palestinians into the UNIFIL area. He said that UNIFIL is in a state of alert on the lines of Sribbin, Yatar, and Jisr al-Hamra', at the Bayt Yahun crossing, and in the Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr area. [passage omitted]

Syrian Ba'th Party Official on Deportation

NC2012185892 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] In Tripoli, Lebanon, 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of Syria's Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [ASBP], has described the Lebanese Government's stand on the deportation of Palestinians as nationalist and pan-Arab. He asked the United States and Russia to deal with this situation and implement the Security Council resolution out of concern for the peace process.

Al-Ahmar was speaking during a visit to Tripoli, where he held a series of meetings at the home of 'Abdallah al-Shahhab, member of the ASBP National Command.

Replying to a question on the Palestinian deportation, Al-Ahmar said it is a sign of the gravity of the Israeli policy hindering the peace process. He added: This policy is not conducive to the success of the peace process. The Arabs have proven their worthiness and sure desire for the success of the peace process; the whole world now knows this.

He went on: We call on the world, especially the peace conference sponsors Russia and the United States, to deal with this issue, because the obstacle to peace is Israel not the Arabs. If the peace is to be comprehensive and just, it must be based on the implementation of UN resolutions, which Israel refuses to implement.

Commenting on the Lebanese Government's stand, al-Ahmar said it is a sound, nationalist, and pan-Arab stand. The Lebanese Government, he added, does not refuse the entry of the Palestinians as Arab citizens but refuses Israel's continued expulsion of Arab citizens from their homeland to settle them in other places. He noted that this is a stand against settlement and one that clings to the land and the Palestinian people's right to stay in their land.

Nasrallah Calls for 'Confrontation' With Israel

NC1912081692 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0830 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General His Eminence Hasan Nasrallah has said that the Zionist decision to deport the Palestinians aims to negate the intifadah inside the occupied territories.

Speaking at a celebration held by Hizballah's social institutions and the Islamic revolution's institutions, his eminence added that this decision also aims to strike a blow to the armed struggle of the intifadah and called for a collective confrontation of this deportation at the local and international levels.

The Hizballah secretary general advised the intifadah leadership to realize the gravity of this action, to know that the battle requires perseverance, and that it has to continue its armed action because the enemy cannot expel all the Palestinian people from the occupied territories.

Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has criticized the U.S. and Arab reaction to the massacre perpetrated by the enemy when it deported more than 400 Palestinian citizens.

His eminence said that Israel is now expelling more than 400 Palestinians on charges of belonging to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]—which has been blamed for the killing of the Israeli soldier—and has used courts of law to cover up its act as if there is a separation of power in Israel and as if the government has nothing to do with the decision.

Viewing the U.S. reaction to this issue, 'Allamah Fadlallah noted the stand of the next U.S. President, who limited himself to regretting the Israeli conduct while condemning and denouncing Hamas. Criticizing the U.S. stand, his eminence said: Israel is killing Palestinian children, women, and elderly daily and no one bothers to protest. Hence, how can we respect a country such as the United States that accuses you of terrorism when Israel is occupying your land?

Ayatollah Fadlallah criticized the mindless Arab stand on the enemy's deportation of Palestinians. He said: Why has the Arab League not acted and studied the organized expulsion of Palestinians? He regretted the lack of any decisive Arab stands.

Hizballah Official Visits Deportees on Border

NC1912082492 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Dispatch by unidentified radio correspondent from western al-Biqa']

[Excerpts] Following a visit to the deportees in the Marj al-Zuhur-Mimis sector, we found the brothers in a pitiful state of exhaustion. Some are without clothes to protect them from the cold and rain and some did not have a chance to bid their families farewell. Some of them are sick as a result of the severe cold and others suffer from wounds they received from Zionist enemy fire during confrontations inside the territories. Some can only walk on crutches; others are carried on stretchers. [passage omitted]

Haj Ahmad Qamar of Hizballah has visited the deportees, who warmly welcomed him. Ibrahim Abu-Salim, one of the deportees, delivered a speech in which he explained the true situation in the occupied territories and the sufferings of the inhabitants. He noted that the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas and the Islamic Resistance in Lebanon are inseparable in view of the common destiny and goal they share. He praised Hizballah's resistance efforts to deal painful blows to the usurper, Israel. [passage omitted]

Haj Qamar then delivered a speech stressing the unity of purpose and belief which all the Muslims share without discrimination. He added: We have come to see in your eyes and on your foreheads Palestine and the imminent victory, God willing. He added: By expelling you, they wanted to weaken the intifadah, not knowing that this only will add fuel to the fire. He asked: Where are the international humanitarian organizations? What have they done regarding the expulsion of citizens from their territories, leaving the invaders free to torture and displace their inhabitants? He concluded by saying that he who wants to liberate the land and restore the dignity of Islam can never submit to the Jews, regardless of the insults and malicious international pressure to which he may be subjected. The intifadah, he added, will remain to provide a ray of hope to the Muslims who are seeking to liberate the sacred territory. [passage omitted]

Palestinians Strike in Sidon, Tyre, Tripoli

NC1912114292 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] A strike was observed in the Palestinian camps in Sidon and Tyre and tires were burned in the streets to protest Israel's expulsion of Palestinians to Lebanon. A sit-in was staged in front of the International Red Cross office and the UN Interim Force in Lebanon's center in Tyre.

In Beirut, students of the Arab University in Beirut staged a sit-in on the university campus.

In Tripoli, more than 400 Palestinians gathered at the City Council courtyard to protest the deportation of Palestinians to Lebanon. Al-Shamal Province Governor Riyad Qawuqji, who received a delegation from the protesters, stressed Lebanon's support for the Palestinian issue during this difficult situation and received from the delegation a memorandum rejecting the Israeli practices. The Palestinians later marched in Tripoli streets carrying signs denouncing the peace conference.

Representatives of Lebanese leftist parties and the 10 Palestinian factions met and discussed practical measures to protest the expulsion of the Palestinians to Lebanon. The measures include organizing popular marches to the UN offices in Lebanon, a campaign to solicit assistance for the deportees, and contacting the embassies of major states to pressure Israel to back down from its decision.

Groups Reject Talks, Call Protest

NC1912151192 Shunayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Lebanese nationalist and progressive parties and Palestinian factions have discussed developments surrounding the deportation of the Palestinian strugglers. Ra'if Sufan, deputy regional assistant secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, read a statement after the meeting. He said the discussion among the Lebanese nationalist parties and forces and the Palestinian factions centered on the crime of the deportation within the U.S.-backed Zionist plot and continuous repression aimed at taking over all the land, in defiance of the Arab and Islamic nation. Sufan added that Palestinian participation in the peace talks is a cover for such a step and called for an immediate withdrawal from the talks. The statement urged the people to take a united stand, rally all efforts and potential, and keep the meetings open to follow up developments. Finally, the statement called for

a protest march on 22 December, starting at 1400, from the Kola circle to the UN Office in Bi'r Hasan.

Sit-in Urges Return of Deportees

NC2012140692 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] Popular committees, student and youth organizations, and Siblin Institute students in Sidon have staged a sit-in outside the office of the International Committee of the Red Cross. The participants carried placards calling for implementing the Security Council resolution on returning the deportees to their country. A sit-in will be held at the same place tomorrow, called by the PLO's Southern Command.

Nationalist and progressive parties and Palestinian factions have called for a march in Beirut on Tuesday, starting from the Kola traffic circle to the UN office in Bi'r Hasan.

Rigid Arab Stand, Boycott Urged

NC2012145892 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] At an invitation from Deputy Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Nasirite Popular Organization, an expanded meeting was held at his home, chaired by Shaykh Muhammad Salim Jalal-al-Din, mufti of Sidon and the south. Also attending the meeting were former Minister Nazih al-Bizri; Deputy 'Ala' Tirru, member of the Progressive Socialist Party command; several clergymen; and a number of party, trade union, society, and culture figures.

A statement issued at the end of the meeting denounced the Israeli measure, which expedited the discovery of more Zionist intentions based on expansion and aggression.

The conferees called in their statement for boycotting the Washington negotiations immediately and urged Arab countries to take a more rigid stand on the U.S.-Israeli plans.

Germany Allegedly 'Torturing' Hammadi Brother

NC1912074992 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] In Beirut, the family of the two Hammadi brothers imprisoned in Germany on terrorism charges has accused German authorities of torturing one of the brothers.

The family urged the Lebanese Government to intervene to save his life. In a statement, the Hammadi family, whose eldest son 'Abd-al-Hadi is a Hizballah official, said that Muhammad Hammadi is subjected to pressure and oppression every 15 minutes around the clock.

'Open War' on Germany Threatened

NC1912221192 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2145 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] The Struggle for Freedom Organization issued a statement this evening threatening to wage open war against the German authorities unless they improve their treatment of the brothers Muhammad and 'Abbas Hammadi, who are serving jail terms in Germany. The organization urged the German authorities to provide the necessary medical treatment for Muhammad Hammadi and allow the international media to provide detailed coverage of his condition throughout the entire period of his medical treatment. We recall that this organization formerly detained German hostages in Lebanon.

Son of Palestinian Military Official Assassinated

NC2012180992 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] Our correspondent in Sidon reports that armed men this evening assassinated 'Imad Mustafa al-Haj, 31, the son of the military official of the Arab Liberation Front in 'Ayn al-Hulwah Camp, near Sidon.

According to Palestinian security sources, a dispute broke out between 'Imad and one of the Front's members, which led to the killing of Akram al-Haj. After the incident, 'Imad al-Haj was handed over to the armed struggle [al-kifah al-musallah]. Armed men this evening stormed the al-Kifah prison, at the entrance of the camp, and assassinated 'Imad in his cell.

Amal Official 'Slightly' Wounded by Bomb

NC1912090492 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Our correspondent in the south has reported that an unidentified person last night threw an explosive device at the house of 'Ali Badr-al-Din, Amal Movement logistics official in al- Nabatiyah. The official and his two children were slightly wounded and the house sustained some damage as a result.

Stray Bullet Reportedly Kills SLA Soldier

NC2012102792 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] Our correspondent in the border region has reported that while a patrol [not further identified] was exploring the road in Mays al-Jabal, a bullet was fired by mistake, killing South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldier Hasan Hammud.

Al-Shar' on Peace Talks, Iran-Egypt Dispute

NC2012124092 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1034 GMT 20 Dec 92

["Text" of an "exclusive" interview with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by an unidentified correspondent in Damascus; date not given]

[Text] [Correspondent] The eighth round of Arab-Israeli peace negotiations have ended with no progress thus far. Will Syria continue along this course in light of the current situation?

[Al-Shar'] It was not unexpected that the peace process would reach the deadlock it now is in. Israel continues to prevaricate. We know that we are waging a big battle for the sake of peace. Yes, we will continue with the peace process, but our desire for peace will never come at the expense of the territories because the Arabs and Syria are not the type that relinquish their rights and territories, no matter how long the occupation remains.

[Correspondent] Israel is still prevaricating and asking Syria to make concessions in order to reach peace. What are the concessions which Syria must make in return for Israel's claims that it has made concessions by accepting Resolution 242?

[Al-Shar'] Israel has not presented anything new in the negotiations. It says that its acceptance of Resolution 242 is something new, but it accepted it when it was issued. It also dealt with a number of initiatives based on this resolution, such as the initiative of UN envoy Gunnar Jarring, the "Rogers" initiative of 1970, and George Shultz' initiative in 1988. Israel also says that it is giving something new by accepting partial withdrawal. But it did accept partial withdrawal in the 1974 agreement on the disengagement of forces in the Golan. That agreement was not one of peace, but a step on the road of achieving comprehensive peace on the basis of Resolution 338. We ask: Do the current negotiations aim to reach a peace that cannot be achieved except on the basis of Resolution 338—which includes Resolution 242—as Israel did in the agreement on the disengagement of forces in the Golan? Or do these negotiations aim to achieve one step toward peace? We believe that these two resolutions stipulate the complete withdrawal from all areas so as to achieve comprehensive peace.

[Correspondent] Are there not any points of agreement between the Syrian and Israeli sides in the peace negotiations?

[Al-Shar'] First we must talk about the obstacles. There are two obstacles impeding any developments; namely, no Israeli confirmation has been issued committing it to a complete withdrawal from the Golan, and Israel has attempted to bypass the comprehensive solution by convincing us to accept bilateral agreements. This is unacceptable to us because we cannot accept anything without the return of every single centimeter of the Golan to Syrian sovereignty. Hence, we fully are convinced that the partial solution without any parallel progress with the Palestinians, the Jordanians, and the Lebanese will not achieve any peace in the Middle East.

[Correspondent] What are the latest Syrian endeavors to resolve the Egyptian-Iranian dispute?

[Al-Shar'] Through our contacts, we are seeking to reduce the differences and remove the blemishes in relations because we believe that this is in the interest of both countries, security, and stability, especially in the Gulf region. We have felt the Egyptian leadership's desire and also that of Iran to resolve any dispute between the two countries through cordial means, because this will ensure, among other things, good and balanced relations that are based on non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual respect. We are eager to see contacts held directly and we also hope to reach results satisfactory to our brothers in Egypt.

[Correspondent] There still is much talk about the Damascus Declaration. Some say that it has collapsed and gone to the grave while others believe it can be revived. What do you think?

[Al-Shar'] We have not been able so far to proceed and implement the declaration. We heard some statements recently which stressed that all the fraternal Arab countries that signed the Damascus Declaration are eager to revive it and give it the dynamism and effectiveness necessary for implementing it.

[Correspondent] The Lebanese elections are over. These elections were boycotted by a number of Christian parties. Some people say that the Syrian leadership imposed these elections on the Lebanese Government. What do you think?

[Al-Shar'] This is not true. We did not put any pressure either on the regime or on the opposition. Syria is not the party that makes the decision in such a case. President Ilyas al-Hirawi and his government insisted on holding the elections, which constitute one of the most important stages toward implementing the National Accord Charter and the establishment of peace. Without the elections, Lebanon would remain in a state of imbalance as a result of the feeling that the war is not over. The Lebanese elections are a purely domestic process which we do not interfere in, or in any of their domestic affairs for that matter. Some were against the elections, and this is their right. The Lebanese Government and the Chamber of Deputies, however, decided to hold the elections, and we backed their decision.

[Correspondent] There are reports saying that the al-Ta'if accord, as a result of the outcome of the parliamentary elections and the arrival of a new Chamber of Deputies speaker, is heading for extinction; do you think so?

[Al-Shar'] The Al-Ta'if accord involves several aspects. The first includes constitutional reforms involving state institutions and powers, such as the powers of the

president, the prime minister, and those of the legislative authority. This has been endorsed by the former Chamber of Deputies after having amended the Constitution. So this part of the al-Ta'if accord has been accomplished, but there is another part that remains to be implemented. According to the text of the accord, the implementation of this second part is linked to another aspect; namely, the abolition of political sectarianism. Under the al-Ta'if accord, which became the National Charter following its endorsement by the Chamber of Deputies in 1989, the first parliament elected from Muslims and Christians on a 50-50 basis is required to take suitable measures to abolish political sectarianism. In this regard, it is required to set up a committee made up of the president, the chamber speaker, the prime minister, and a number of politicians to work out a program for the abolition of this sectarianism in stages. So this issue remains to be implemented since it is linked to the election of a new Chamber of Deputies. This new chamber has been elected and everyone hopes that it will assume its responsibility toward implementing this part.

[Correspondent] It is no secret that Iran is trying to impose its influence in Lebanon through backing Hizballah in the south. Some say that this Iranian involvement threatens the al-Ta'if accord on one hand and the Middle East peace process on the other; what do you think?

[Al-Shar'] We believe that Iran is not seeking to gain influence in Lebanon. It is true that Iran maintains relations with some Lebanese, but not within the framework of searching for influence in that country. This is what we understood and still understand from Iranian leaders. Hizballah is a Lebanese faction which is friendly to Iran. This faction, along with other factions, is contributing toward resisting the Israeli occupation, which is a legitimate right of any citizen in any country resisting occupation. If the Israelis truly want peace with Lebanon, why don't they implement Security Council Resolution 425, which is a clear and explicit resolution? The obstacles impeding the peace process are not created by the Arab side, but by Israel, the aggressive side which is occupying the territory.

[Correspondent] Syria is still on the list of countries supporting terrorism, according to the West. This is not because of the Syrian Government, but because certain persons known for their previous involvement in terrorist acts go to Syria and leave whenever they want. How do you explain this?

[Al-Shar'] We object to and reject terrorism. There is no evidence that Syria is involved in terrorism. If your question concerns the Palestinians in Syria, these people are not practicing terrorism. Like the other Palestinians, they are struggling on their land through the intifadah and their struggle is confined to and directed against the Israeli occupation. We always reject terrorist acts outside the region because we believe that any such act will not help return the Palestinians to their country. As for their struggle inside their country, it is their right and duty. The Palestinians in Syria had their own methods before the intifadah, but now they are struggling through the intifadah.

Daily: Condemnation of Israel 'Not Enough'

JN2012070992 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 20 Dec 92

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper TISHRIN says that the UN Security Council resolution denouncing the Israeli deportation decision reflects a sense of frustration and bitterness by the world's countries and peoples. This is because Israel was not satisfied with impeding the peace process for a whole year, but chose to deport more Palestinians, thus dealing a treacherous blow to the peace process, which has been sponsored by continuous international efforts throughout the past months.

After discussing the details of the intransigent Israeli position on the peace process, the paper affirms that Yitzhaq Rabin's statements on peace are aimed at deceiving the world public opinion, extorting U.S. and Western treasuries, and obtaining more weapons. TISHRIN says that Rabin has excelled his predecessor Yitzhaq Shamir in the escalation of killings, displacements, and disregard for UN resolutions and the bases of the aspired peace.

Concluding its article, the newspaper says that Israel's policy affirms that condemnation is not enough. Rather, the international community should employ all means of pressure against Israel to make it comply with the international will and implement all resolutions that it has so far impeded.

Deportations, International Responsibility Viewed

JN1912095192 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 19 dec 92

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspapers AL-THAWRAH and TISHRIN discuss Israel's decision to expel 417 Palestinians from their homeland on charges of resisting the occupation.

Under the headline "An Israeli Blow to the Peace Process," the newspaper TISHRIN affirms that this decision provides an additional piece of evidence that Israel has dealt a blow to the peace process. The paper says that the dangerous escalation of the situation in the occupied territories will have a direct impact on the situation in the region as a whole in view of the possible repercussions of this escalation, which unveils already exposed Israeli intentions aimed at creating such a situation through which the Rabin government seeks to entrench its occupation of the occupied Arab territories.

TISHRIN indicates that by such practices, which are condemned and rejected in light of the continued peace

talks, Israel refutes by itself its allegations and declarations that it is concerned about the peace process. The paper explains that the world, which has closely observed Israel's policy of endangering the peace process and leading it to a dead end through maneuvering, provocation, terrorism, and extortion, must move effectively in order to check this hysterical Israeli campaign, which is hostile to peace in both form and content. This is especially true since the UN Security Council adopted a clear resolution last January demanding Israel to avoid deporting Arab citizens and condemning such provocative practices, which are a brazen violation of the international law.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Obviously, peace cannot be achieved through allegations and beguiling, deceptive statements. As affirmed by all rounds of talks, especially the eighth round of talks, peace is a fateful issue. Israel should not be allowed to tamper with the bases and conditions of peace. Since the path to peace has been opened through talks, Israel has no alternative but to comply with the bases and requirements of peace and fully response its conditions, particularly full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

In an article, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH indicates that this is not the only arbitrary Israeli decision. In fact, all Israeli policies are repressive, racist policies based on racist Zionist ideologies which urge killing, destruction, and displacement.

AL-THAWRAH says: Therefore, the Rabin government' decision and crime of deporting hundreds of Palestinians outside their homeland are not surprising. This decision is an implementation of anti-Arab Zionist instructions, disregarding the ensuing negative consequences, be it in terms of intensifying the atmosphere in the region, obstructing the peace process, ignoring international legality, or fanning acts of violence inside the occupied territories. There can be no end to such acts unless their causes are removed. This can only be achieved by putting an end to the occupation and the full restoration of the Palestinians' legitimate rights.

AL-THAWRAH explains that Israel would not have been able to continue its aggressive policy had the the UN Security Council, the United Nations, and the states advocating peoples' rights have moved from verbal denunciation to the implementation of resolutions providing for putting an end to the occupation and the usurpation of Palestinians' rights.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Had it not been for the Arabs' weakness and disarray, the appropriate climate for the Israeli aggression would not have continued. This reality must be changed so that the Arab tragedy will end. Alluding to that, leader al-Asad said: As an Arab citizen, I believe that without unity, we Arabs will have no happy life. Historical development increasingly necessitates that firmer and more vital efforts be exerted to achieve Arab unity.

Afghanistan

Commission Meets To Prepare for Settlement Council

LD1712203092 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Esteemed Sayd Nurullah Emad, head of the Central Commission on drafting rules for the convocation of the Resolution and Settlement Council [Shura-ye Ahl-e Hal Wa 'Aqd] met at the headquarters of this commission today with the elected delegates from Qandahar, Baghlan, and Takhar Provinces. During this meeting esteemed Emad spoke in detail about the role and values of the Resolution and Settlement Council and about the selection of the future leadership of the country. He asked the delegates to render decisions in accordance with the principles of the sacred religion of Islam so that the people of Afghanistan reach prosperity and our country is reconstructed and becomes prosperous.

Esteemed Shah Aqa Sediq Mujaddedi, head of the Service Committee of the Central Commission for convening the Resolution and Settlement Council, along with the members of that committee, today reviewed the situation regarding food, accomodation, transport, and medical services which have been provided for the people's representatives who have come to Kabul to participate in the Resolution and Settlement Council. He gave instructions to the officials of the various sections about providing better services to them.

A relevant source from that committee said to a correspondent of the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY [BIA] that the Service Group of the Central Commission for holding the Resolution and Settlement Council will remain active 24 hours a day and six residential places equipped with medical clinics have been prepared for the elected representatives of people.

This morning esteemed Mawlawi Jalaloddin Haqqani, minister of justice of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, attended a gathering of the elected representatives from Zabol, Oruzgan, Helmand, Takhar, Kondoz, and Farah provinces and representatives of Kochi [Nomadic people] from Southwest Zone which was held in the hall of Kabul Hotel. The representatives came to Kabul to participate in the Resolution and Settlement Council. The gathering opened with a few verses read from the holy Koran. Then, Esteemed Jalaloddin Haqqani spoke about the 14-year struggle of the mojahedin, the needs of our suffering society and nation, and the responsibilities of the elected representatives toward the people. He urged them to consider the basic principles of Islam and the Muhammadan shari'ah in electing the future leader of the country and to play their Islamic and religious duty with honesty in this regard. [passage omitted]

The meeting ended with prayers read for the realization of the aspirations of the Islamic revolution, establishment of a nationwide peace in the country, and preparation of the ground for the reconstruction of the country.

Esteemed Rahmatollah Wahedyar, minister of returnees' affairs, who had gone to Paktia Province as head of a delegation supervising the election of representatives to the Resolution and Settlement Council, returned to Kabul today after successfully carrying out the election process. In connection with the election of the representatives to the Resolution and Settlement Council in Paktia Province, Esteemed Rahmatollah Wahedyar said to a BIA correspondent that elders, leaders, ulema, and jihadi commanders of Paktia Province have welcomed warmly the convocation of the Resolution and Settlement Council and considered it as an important issue in ending war and ensuring a permanent peace in the country.

As a result of the elections which were held with much interest and based on Islamic principles, 44 representatives from various jihadi groups and ulema and leaders of that province were elected and were sent to Kabul to participate in the Council.

18 Dec Session

LD1812195392 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] The Central Commission on the convocation of the Resolution and Settlement Council [Shura-ye Hal wa 'Aqd] held a meeting today under the chairmanship of esteemed Nurullah Emad. This session assessed the work of the supervisory commissions' members who returned to Kabul from the provinces.

The session approved many documents belonging to the Resolution and Settlement Council members which were issued in accordance with the guideline of the Central Commission.

The session decided that a meeting of the Resolution and Settlement Council at which the delegates will appoint the country's future leadership will be convened in Kabul in accordance with the previous decisions of the Leadership Council and efforts of the present Afghan Government. Extensive work is underway by the assigned commission to convene a meeting of the Resolution and Settlement Council. Despite difficulties, a large number of elected delegates have arrived in Kabul from the provinces and various regions of the country. According to one report, some delegates from Ghazni, Helmand, and Paktia Provinces have arrived in Kabul.

19 Dec Session

LD1912185692 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Excerpts] The Central Commission on drafting provisions and establishing the Resolution and Settlement Council held a meeting at the Intercontinental Hotel this

morning to mark the convocation of the Resolution and Settlement Council and to introduce the people's elected delegates to this council to each other.

A BAKHTAR correspondent has reported that, in addition to the people's elected delegates who have come to Kabul to take part in the Resolution and Settlement Council, members of the commission on the convocation of the Resolution and Settlement Council; Esteemed Engineer Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai, deputy prime minister and minister of internal affairs; Esteemed Alhaj Mohammad Sediq Chakari, minister of information and culture; and a number of high-ranking government officials attended the meeting. Members of the Resolution and Settlement Council were able to become acquainted with each other. [passage omitted]

The BAKHTAR correspondent adds that Esteemed Nurollah Emad, chairman of the Central Commission on drafting provisions and establishing the Resolution and Settlement Council, then spoke. He discussed the historic importance of the council, and expressed the hope that the people's elected delegates to this Islamic council will be able to accomplish their major duties and responsibilities appropriately, in consideration of the shining and lofty aspiration of the jihad of Afghanistan's mojahed nation, the enormous sacrifices of the jihad martyrs, and the supreme interests of the people and the war-torn country. He urged the delegates to discharge their duties responsibly in choosing [word indistinct] the leadership of the country and entrust this great duty, which is full of responsibility, to a person with the ability to carry out this task and serve the people, the jihad, and our beloved country. [passage omitted]

He went on to say: At a time when our country and people are going through a sensitive period, I hope our delegates will not forget the major interests and difficulties of our people. I hope they will bear in mind the difficulties that have come into being since the formation of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, and discharge their mission in an appropriate way.

According to the BAKHTAR correspondent's report, Esteemed Engineer Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai then spoke on behalf of the Council of Ministers. He welcomed the people's elected representatives to the Resolution and Settlement Council, and spoke about the council's legality and originality. He said that this council, with the participation of the representatives of the people, has the very important task of electing the leadership of the country and resolving the existing problems. It is necessary that, regardless of the linguistic, tribal, and regional differences and political and group discord, all the representatives should take part in this council and fulfill their duties. This is a test to see how the people of Afghanistan can resolve their internal issues in line with the principles of the sacred religion of Islam and their own historical traditions. The present situation requires us to join hands in Islamic brotherhood and free the country from all its problems. If we do not succeed in carrying out this important duty correctly and honestly, we will be responsible before Almighty God, and the Muslim people of the country and the nation will face more misfortune, he declared.

In conclusion, Mawlawi Mohammad Mir, one of the representatives, read out a prayer for the successful convocation of the council, the establishment of permanent peace and stability in the country, and the prosperity of the Muslim people of Afghanistan. He prayed to Almighty God to ensure Islamic unity, solidarity, and brotherhood among the Muslim people of the country.

Rabbani's Delegation Fails To Reach Accord With Dostam

LD1912124292 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Dari to Afghanistan 0900 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] The delegation sent by Burnahoddin Rabbani to General Dostam returned to Kabul with no result. A Radio Message of Freedom correspondent, quoting a reliable source in the coalition administration in Kabul, reports that a delegation which had been dispatched to Mazar-e Sharif to meet General Dostam and ask him to change his mind regarding the conditions he put forward has returned to Kabul with no result. The report adds that this delegation, consisting of General Momen, General Fahim, and General Khan Aqa, handed over Rabbani's message asking General Dostam to change his mind entirely or at least alter (?the conditions he had put forward). Dostam, however, refused to accept Rabbani's demand and reiterated his conditions. It is said that one of the conditions put forward by Dostam is recognition of the Movement of the North as a formation and the inclusion of its membership in the Leadership Council and the Resolution and Settlement Council.

Dostam's Forces on Alert in Kabul

LD1912125492 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Dari to Afghanistan 0900 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Rashid Dostam has instructed his forces in Kabul to stay in a state of full preparedness. A Radio Message of Freedom correspondent, quoting a reliable source in Kabul, reports that Rashid Dostam has instructed (Homayun Fawzi), his assistant in Kabul, to put his troops in Kabul on a state of alert. The report adds that such a state of preparedness is the result of the intense fighting that flared up a few days ago between his troops and the Sura-e Nezar, in Kabul. Political commentators believe that a new clash in Kabul is possible.

Hekmatyar Assails Government, Jami'at Party

LD1912225192 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Dari to Afghanistan 0900 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Dear listeners to Radio Message of Freedom: We draw your attention to an introductory statement delivered to domestic and foreign journalists by Brother Hekmatyar during a news conference yesterday.

In part of his statement Brother Hekmatyar said: I believe that the situation in our country has reached a crucial stage. The possibility of an explosion is constantly with us. [Word indistinct] of the coalition administration, unfortunately, have chosen a dangerous path for the continuation of their fragile and shameful administration, and they are playing a dangerous game which will lead to more bloodshed [word indistinct] in the country. Defaulting on commitments, violating undertakings, embarking on fabrications, setting up a staged Resolution and Settlement Council, misusing public money, plundering national assets, employing bribery and administrative corruption, embarking on blood feuds, and abusing [two words indistinct]—they are doing all of these in order to remain in power. All these things clearly show that the rulers of the coalition administration want to remain in power at any cost.

Out of nine Jihadi formations, seven have raised objections to the process of setting up the Resolution and Settlement Council and to the fabrications created in this respect, as well as to the illegitimate appropriation of wealth by the selfish rulers. They have called for the rectification of this process. Rabbani, unfortunately, [words indistinct] wants to bring their supporters to Kabul from here and there by plane and helicopter, and thus convene their Resolution and Settlement Council. In such a way, like Najib and Karmal, they will be sure of remaining in power and of being accepted as the legal and elected rulers of the country.

I must say that Rabbani not only cannot achieve his objective by such a channel but by doing this he becomes the cause of more fighting. He also endangers his own future and that of his group. We hate war and do not want our innocent people to suffer from war [words indistinct]. We hate to seize power by illegitimate means. For this reason we refrained from taking part in the last fighting despite the Jami'at-e Eslami's strong insistence [words indistinct]. We were waiting for the solution of the issue through the Resolution and Settlement Council. We were seriously cooperating for the convocation of this council. We sent our representatives to take part in the work of the commission that was set up. We accompanied the delegations with our men and dispatched them to the provinces.

Unfortunately, however, there were fabrications [words indistinct]. The provisions drafted by the commission were not implemented. [Words indistinct] without the formation of district councils whereby the district representatives could have been introduced to the council, they instructed their manufactured [word indistinct] who were assigned by extraordinary decrees to introduce their [words indistinct] to the council.

However, if more fighting breaks out in Kabul [words indistinct] and we will not remain indifferent, but this would not be to the benefit of Jami'at. Jami'at has closed all channels of understanding and talks. Therefore the responsibility for all dangerous consequences will rest on the Jami'at leaders and the coalition government. There has been aggression by the Jami'at forces against the Hezb-e Eslami fronts in Herat, Farah, Kapisa, Parwan, and Kabul Provinces. Not even one ordinary post has been given to the Hezb, and Jami'at was not prepared to choose even a sub-governor from the Hezb. Thousands of Hezb members were arrested in Kabul on charges of being in possession of the Hezb membership card, and were tortured and [words indistinct]. Despite all this, and despite [word indistinct] perpetrated against the Hezb, we have always tried to refrain from clashing with Jami'at . We have regarded Jami'at as a fraternal party and have extended the hand of cooperation to them. Unfortunately, we have received a negative response in every instance. For this reason, during the recent fighting in Kabul, in reply to the repeated calls of Rabbani saying that here a war is being waged between Islam and the infidel and asking that the Hezb-e Eslami stand on the side of Jami'at, we replied: How can we trust you? [words indistinc] but we would never cooperate with [words indistinct] those who want to obtain power through collaboration. [words indistinct] we want the present situation to be changed by any possible means; the fighting must end, peace must be restored. A provisional government acceptable to all formations should come to power, with elections being held in a few months, and finally the power being transferred to an elected government. In this respect we are ready for serious cooperation with all groups.

Dear listeners to Radio Message of Freedom: That was the introductory statement by Brother Hekmatyar delivered at a news conference with domestic and foreign journalists. The text of questions and answers will be broadcast in our program tomorrow night.

Bangladesh

Premadasa Ends Visit; Comments on SAARC

BK1412161092 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa left Dhaka today at the end of his four-day official visit to Bangladesh. Prior to departure, Mr. Premadasa told newsmen he is very satisfied with the visit and a lot of spade work has been done for the seventh SAARC [South Asian Association For Regional Cooperation] summit to be held in Dhaka next month. President Premadasa, the current chairman of the SAARC, said that he is very hopeful that the SAARC will move from strength to strength and the Dhaka summit will provide further stimulation to the regional forum.

During his stay in the capital, the Sri Lankan president had wide-ranging talks with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. He also held informal talks on SAARC matters with the Bangladesh prime minister and the Pakistan prime minister.

Foreign Minister Musatfizur Rahman saw President Premadasa and his entourage off at the airport. Minister

In-Waiting Musharaf Hussain, Foreign Secretary Riaz Rehman, Bangladesh High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Shamsher Matin Chowdhury and Sri Lankan High Commissioner in Bangladesh (Alfred David) were also present at the airport.

Earlier, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia paid a farewell call on Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa at his hotel suite. Begum Zia thanked the current SAARC chairman for his visit to this country despite postponement of the SAARC summit. She said the visit had demonstrated his commitment to the SAARC spirit and warm friendship with Bangladesh. President Premadasa thanked Begum Zia for the warm hospitality shown to him and to the members of his entourage during their stay. The Sri Lankan president hoped the friendship and bilateral relations between his country and Bangladesh will be further strengthened.

Secretary Notes U.S. Satisfaction With Policies

BK1912164292 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman told newsmen in Dhaka today that the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] summit will be held in Dhaka on 13 January per the revised schedule. He said that Bangladesh is going ahead with preparations for holding the two-day summit. All preliminary meetings of officials, foreign secretaries, and foreign ministers have been held and now only the summit is left. He said the heads of states and governments of the other six SAARC members—Sri Lanka, Maldives, Bhutan, Nepal, India, and Pakistan—will arrive in Dhaka on 12 January. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will formally receive them at the international conference center before the inaugural ceremony of the SAARC summit on 13 January. The concluding session of the summit will be held in the afternoon of 14 January. The foreign secretary said that the main agenda of the summit will be eradication of poverty, socioeconomic development, and promotion of trade.

Commenting on a New Delhi radio report that said the United States has cautioned Pakistan and Bangladesh not to interfere in India's internal affairs, Reaz Rahman said that Bangladesh has not received any such complaint from the United States. On the other hand, the U.S. Government and its diplomats in Bangladesh have expressed satisfaction with government measures to maintain communal harmony in the country.

Regarding the stranded Pakistanis in Bangladesh, the foreign secretary said that Bangladesh is pressuring the Pakistani Government for their immediate repatriation and expressed the hope that the repatriation process will begin toward the end of this month.

In reply to a question regarding the Rohingya refugees, he said the process of their repatriation to Myanmar is continuing and added that the UNHCR is playing a commendable role in this regard.

Zia Calls For Strengthening Defense System

BK1912144392 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] The President's Parade was held in the Bhatiyari parade ground of the Bangladesh Military Academy [BMA] in Chittagong this morning on the occasion of the commissioning of gentlemen cadets who had completed the 27th long course and 8th special short course. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia witnessed the attractive march past and took salute. Speaking on the occasion, the prime minister stressed the need for improving the standard of training with a view to strengthening the defense system of the country. She called for developing the defense system through proper use and preservation of military equipment and evolving a national strategy. She called upon the gentlemen cadets to uphold the image of the armed forces by rendering their service in a disciplined, efficient and dedicated manner. Begum Zia said that honesty, sincerity and patriotism is necessary to become an army officer. The prime minister said that our armed forces have earned a special reputation both at home and abroad due to their efficiency. She recalled the glorious role played by the officers and soldiers of our armed forces who participated in the United Nations peacekeeping force during the Iran-Iraq war and the reconstruction of Kuwait. The Prime Minister said that members of our armed forces are recently participating in international peace keeping efforts in Cambodia and Yugoslavia, and have gone to Somalia for assisting in the relief operations. Our Chittagong correspondent reports that senior under-officer Ferdous Hasan Salim has been selected as the best cadet and was awarded with the Sword of Honor. He was also given the Osmani gold medal for achieving distinction in field of education and the Chief of Staff gold medal for achieving distinction in the field of military affairs. He also won the Dr. Khudrate Khuda gold medal for his outstanding contribution in the science group. Jehangir Kompas was awarded the flag of the Bangladesh Military Academy for the winter session. Among others present in this colorful parade were Communications Minister Oli Ahmed; Planning Minister Zahiruddin Khan; Agriculture, Irrigation and Flood Control Minister M. Majedul Haq; Leader of the Opposition in the parliament Sheikh Hasina; members of diplomatic corps; high military and civil officials; local elite; and parents and relatives of the gentlemen cadets. Earlier, when the prime minister reached the parade ground, she was received by the chief of army staff, Lieutenant General Nooruddin Khan; local area commander, Major General Mohammed Ayubur Rahman; and BMA Commandant Brigadier Mohammed Shah Afzal.

New French Ambassador Presents Credentials

BK2012142892 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] The newly-appointed French ambassador to Bangladesh, (Ian Michelle LaCombe), presented his credentials to President Abdur Rahman Biswas at the

president's house in Dhaka today. Accepting the credentials, the president expressed the hope that the existing ties of friendship and cooperation between Bangladesh and France will further strengthen in the future. He said the two friendly countries share similar views on many regional and international issues. Both the countries believe in international cooperation for achieving the objectives of peace, development, and mutual progress. Presenting his letter of credence, the ambassador said France has always valued friendship with Bangladesh. He said economic and trade ties should be further increased along with joint ventures in the interest of mutual benefit to the two countries.

India

BJP Seeks Advani Release in Lok Sabha

BK1812160692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has requested the Lok Sabha speaker to use his good offices to secure the release of the leader of the opposition, Mr. L.K. Advani. In a letter to Mr. Shivraj Patil, the deputy leader of the BJP in the Lok Sabha, Mr. Jaswant Singh, said presiding officers cannot remain unconcerned or disinterested about the executive action against members of parliament.

Secular Parties Plan Campaign Against Communalism

BK1912161492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Several secular-minded parties and mass organizations vowed to jointly fight communalism in the country. At a convention held in New Delhi today, representatives of 11 political parties and organizations unanimously adopted a resolution calling for a nationwide campaign against communalism and to work for the unity of the country. Briefing newspersons, the general secretary of the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], Mr. Harkishen Singh Surjeet, said a national campaign committee is being set up and a comprehensive action plan chalked out to meet the menace of communalism. The convention was attended by, among others, Mr. V.P. Singh, Mr. Devi Lal, Mr. Arjit Singh, Mr. Chitta Basu, Mr. Indrajit Gupta, Mr. Kudip Nayyar, Mr. Bhishma Sahni, and Swami Agnivesh.

Minister on Anti-Communalism Plan; Mid-Term Poll

BK1912161292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] The human resource development minister, Mr. Arjun Singh, has said that the Congress-I is to draw a special plan of action to combat communal forces in the country and will take help of all like-minded parties in this task. Addressing a meet-the- press program at the press club in New Delhi today, he said the center stands committed to the reconstruction of the mosque at Ayodhya. However, passions should first be allowed to cool down so that a decision about the issue can be taken in a relaxed atmosphere.

Answering a question, he ruled out any possibility of mid-term elections at this juncture and said there is no question of holding a referendum on the Ayodhya issue. He, however, said that if the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] wants it, then its MPs should resign and seek a fresh mandate.

Islamabad, Dhaka Accused of 'Interference'

BK2012092092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] India has charged Pakistan and Bangladesh with trying to make political capital out of the Ayodhya incidents and using religion as a tool of interference in the internal affairs of other countries. Speaking on a resolution—elimination of all forms of religious intolerance—in the UN General Assembly, India's chief delegate, Mr. Gharekhan, said that the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, saw the incidents in Ayodhya as a betrayal of the nation and immediately dismissed the Uttar Pradesh Government and banned five communal organizations.

Mr. Gharekhan said that in Pakistan the prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, and other leaders made highly provocative remarks arousing communal passions against India. Meanwhile, the United Arab Emirates [UAE] has decided to deport about 250 Bangladeshis for taking part in demonstrations following the demolition of the disputed shrine at Ayodhya. Demonstrations are prohibited in the UAE.

Left Parties Criticize BJP Leader's Fast

BK2012160892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, went on an indefinite fast today soon after his detention while proceeding to address a rally defying prohibitory orders and release from police custody in New Delhi. He asserted that he would continue his fast till the center stops what he called maligning his party and agrees to release all party workers arrested in the country. He alleged that the Center is using strong-arm methods to suppress the BJP.

Mr. Vajpayee demanded that the Lok Sabha should be dissolved and fresh mandate be sought from the people. The BJP leader said that the Center's action reminds one of emergency days. Mr. Vajpayee and other BJP leaders—Mr. Madan Lal Khurana, Mr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, and Mr. O.P. Kohli—were detained outside the party office on Panth Marg and later let off. According to agency reports, police resorted to mild lathi [baton]

charge and teargasing to disperse BJP workers at two places in New Delhi as they attempted to break through security cordon to attend a public meeting at the Talkatora Stadium.

The Left parties have criticized the BJP leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, for resorting to a fast after his arrest for violating prohibitory orders. The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] general secretary, Mr. Harkishen Singh Surjeet, said Mr. Vajpayee's action will not help in easing the prevailing situation. The CPI [Communist Party of India] general secretary, Mr. Indrajit Gupta, described it as unfortunate.

In Karnataka, police arrested 60 BJP members including the state general secretary, Mr. Anand, in Belgaum city today when they attempted to take out a procession violating prohibitory orders. Later, they were released.

In Calcutta, a number of BJP supporters were arrested when they took out a procession defying prohibitory orders. The arrested include the party national vice president, Mr. Vishnukant Shastri, MP, and the state unit president, Mr. Tapan Sikdar.

Minister on 20 Dec Action Against BJP

BK2112080892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] The Lok Sabha was adjourned till 1200 today amid noisy scenes following the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] demand to suspend the question hour and presence in the house of the senior party member, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, who is on a fast since yesterday. As soon as the house assembled for the day, Mr. Madan Lal Khurana, BJP; and several other BJP members alleged that the democratic rights of the party are being curtailed. They referred to yesterday's developments in New Delhi, leading to the detention of Mr. Vajpayee and some other BJP leaders for some time and demanded a statement from the government suspending question hour. They said Mr. Vajpayee is to reply to the no-confidence motion moved by him and his presence in the house is essential.

Responding immediately, the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, categorically assured the BJP that the government is not in any manner trying to interfere in its activities. He said the government is concerned only with the banned organizations and the BJP is free to hold indoor meetings as long as the number of participants is kept to the capacity of the hall and those who go out or come in for the meeting conduct themselves in a peaceful manner. He said so long as there are no active members of any banned organizations, there is no reason to arrest them. The home minister said he met Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee yesterday and tried to persuade him to give up the fast as all the three demands made by him have been conceded. The minister explained that the Section 144 of the CRPC [Criminal Procedure Code] is in force throughout Delhi and only peace marches aiming at promoting communal harmony are allowed. He said the Delhi administration was of the view that holding of the BJP rally yesterday would have created difficulties in normalizing the situation. The speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, observed that the question hour should not be suspended as the government has responded and explained about yesterday's developments. The BJP, however, remained insistent on Mr. Vajpayee's presence in the house and it was adjourned till 1200 amid interruptions. When the house met again, it resumed discussion on the BJP-sponsored no-confidence motion after laying of papers by ministers. Mr. Vajpayee has since come to the house.

The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, gave categorical assurance in the Rajya Sabha today that there will be no interference with the normal democratic functioning of the BJP within the law. He was responding to the agitated opposition members' reference to yesterday's incidents in New Delhi, which led the BJP leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, going on an indefinite fast. Mr. Chavan appealed to Mr. Vajpayee to give up his fast. He said no BJP member would be arrested if he gives an undertaking that he is no longer a member of the RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh] or any of the banned organizations. Mr. Chavan said the indoor meetings can be allowed if the party workers do not create law and order problem on their way and organize themselves to the meeting place peacefully.

Earlier, the members of all opposition political parties criticized the government for detaining Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee leading to his indefinite fast. As soon as the house assembled, the matter was raised by the leader of the opposition, Mr. Sikander Bukht, BJP.

No-Confidence Debate Resumes; Singh Speaks

BK2112092292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] The Lok Sabha today resumed discussion for the third day on the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]-sponsored no-confidence motion against the government. In his speech, Mr. V.P. Singh, Janata Dal, called for a national atonement as the Ayodhya tragedy was a national crisis. He said the promises of the prime minister and the leader of the opposition have been broken and the Supreme Court orders were not implemented. He said the credibility of the government is agitating the minds of the people and the question is whether to protect the country or the government. He said governments may come and go but the republic has to remain. Criticizing the Center's inaction, Mr. V.P. Singh said that had its .deas been strong, the Ayodhya tragedy could have been preempted. Therefore, he said, the prime minister should have owned responsibility and quit his office. Cautioning the designs of some forces to set up a theocratic state, he said this can be combated only by strengthening the secular and social forces in the country. Charging the BJP with taking the country backward in history, Mr. Singh said the Ayodhya incident has shattered the dream of Gandhiji of a secular India.

Earlier, resuming the debate, Mr. S.S. Owcisi, said the Center cannot escape from its responsibility for the incidents. Demanding immediate steps to rebuild the masjid [mosque] at the same site at Ayodhya, he called for an investigation into the killings and destruction of property of minorities in the recent riots. He also demanded resignation of the chief minister of Maharashtra for failing to control the situation in his state.

Mr. Digvijay Singh, Congress-I; charged the BJP with wearing a false mask of religion for political gain and said all moderate forces have to come forward to fight the forces of communalism in the country. Mr. Nathu Ram Mirdha, Congress-I; blamed the BJP for the demolition of the structure at Ayodhya and justified the dismissal of the BJP-ruled state governments.

Mr. E. Ahmad, Muslim League; opposed the no-confidence motion and said the Ayodhya incidents are an assault on the secular fabric of the country. The speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, clarifying a point raised by a member, said the voting on the no-confidence motion will take place later this afternoon. The debate is in progress.

Iran

President Speaks at Tehran University

LD2012223292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, as you heard earlier in the bulletin, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this afternoon took part in a question and answer session at Tehran University in which he replied to questions from students about a range of issues. We begin this bulletin's scientific and cultural news with a detailed report on President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's remarks. [passage omitted]

In the session, the president stressed the importance of paying attention to the spirit of idealism of students. He said: Universities are the best place for focusing on revolutionary and Islamic ideals and aims; this idealism is necessary and effective for the development of society. The maintenance of idealism is, therefore, an important issue which must be borne in mind by planners and policy makers.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the head of the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution [Rafsanjani] asked academics to strive toward the provision of the specialist workforce needed for the country's reconstruction. He added: We must achieve independence for our country through our universities, because the world of arrogance will not only not be inclined to help resolve Iran's scientific and technological problems, but instead aims to create obstructions in this field.

The president noted: If universities and scientific research centers are negligent in the task of training specialist forces for the country's reconstruction and spend their time sloganeering, we will find one day that we have been left empty-handed.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: Because of its fear of the particular features of the Islamic revolution, global arrogance tells developed countries not to give sensitive technology to Iran; this effort is a result of their fear of the nature of the Islamic revolution. Arrogance and Western media accuse Iran of expansionism in order to exert pressure on the government in some way; this is in circumstances in which, on that day when Iran resorted to its weapons [Iran-Iraq war], it was not with the intention of invading regional countries.

The president referred to other malicious propaganda by Western media and arrogance, such as that on atomic weapons, on the violation of human rights in Iran, and on accusations against Iran of terrorism. He said: Arrogance is afraid of Iran's revolutionary ideology and its cry for justice and against arrogance. Therefore, they all create a fuss, on false pretenses, suggesting that Iran wants to produce an atomic bomb; they thereby want to deprive the people of Iran of the use of atomic energy. The very people who accuse Iran of terrorism support, near the White House, those who have planted bombs in and inflicted terrorism on Iran [Mojahedin-e Khalq]. They allow them to carry out their activities in Paris and Bonn.

The president noted that, while Iran deploys the largest force in the battle against the inhuman and satanic activity of drug smuggling and tries to confront it, arrogance's propaganda accuses Iran of executing political prisoners under the guise of drug smugglers.

On relations with Egypt, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: If that country ceases its activities in favor of the Israeli regime, it can, in its capacity as a great Islamic country, have relations with Iran. The president added: Relations between the Iranian and Egyptian nations are to the advantage of the world of Islam and I hope that, when that country adopts a principled stance, the two nations of Iran and Egypt will be able to have relations with each other in the future.

A student asked: Was it the views of experts or was it the views of a particular group that were taken into account when making a decision on the single parity rate for foreign currency? Hashemi-Rafsanjani replied that many studies were carried out on the issue and the views of various experts from the Majles, the economic council, and the government, as well as those of other experts, were used. The president said the single parity rate for foreign currency has many uses, including the means of reforming the country.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated that at the present stage the implementation of the single parity for foreign currency aims at structural and administrative reform but not adjustment. The policy of adjustment will pursue its path separately and will be implemented gradually. The president explained how payments in rials will be made for the obtaining of commodities and said that at the

present stage, as before, foreign currency for defense, medical, and basic commodities has been paid.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani also said the nonexistence of a budget deficit, for the first time in 25 years, is a positive factor for the welfare of people and society. He stated that, at the beginning of the five-year economic, social, and cultural development plan, it was intended that the budget deficit should reach zero in the fifth year. This has been achieved according to plan, he declared.

The collection of taxes, thanks to economic improvement, is now much better than it was in the first year of the five-year plan. The country has had much rial income from foreign currency set at a real price. Accordingly the budget deficit is a prelude to the general structural reform of the country. Generally, the government's sources of income have shown a good increase, he asserted.

The president was asked: What are your plans for the vulnerable stratas of society? He replied that in the budget for the year beginning March 1993 we have set aside great subsidies plus 65 billion rials of credit for the vulnerable stratas. We hope to reduce the difficulties of the salary earners through our support. The expansion of social security and medical insurance will significantly help the needy, he said.

On the issue of reconstruction, the president said we now face the difficult period of reconstruction. During the war 51 pecent of the budget, which was not a great deal, was borrowed from domestic banks. This was inflation. But now, after great efforts, the budget for the year beginning March 1993 has been presented to the Majles without any deficit. At the same time we have continued with extensive construction, an example of which is 6 million square meters of building under construction for educational purposes.

He added the figure for next year's development budget is more—as a proportion of the total budget—than the budgets of the past 25 years.

Asked whether the places allocated to war veterans in universities will remain, the president said that this allocation for the country's war veterans, who spent their youth on the war fronts, will remain. This is in the interest of the country and it is a matter of justice, he declared.

Majles Speaker Comments on U.S. Ties

NC1812183692 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 8 Dec 92 p 2

[Excerpts] The Majles is prepared to incorporate the views of the students at universities and research centers on various issues in its approval of bills and proposals. This was stated by [Majles speaker] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nateq-Nuri in an address to students at the Tehran University mosque on Students Day, celebrated on 7 December.

He said: The mission of our cultural and scientific centers is momentous and since the students are considered a bulwark of the nation in Iran's system, they should assist us in the proposals and bills debated in the Majles.

He stressed that this is especially important and necessary with regard to the Western cultural onslaught. The universities and scientific research centers should present their proposals so that officials can study them and take the necessary steps. [passage omitted]

In another part of his address, the speaker of the Islamic Majles alluded to the pressure the powers of world arrogance put on Iran, especially on the issue of Abu Musa, human rights in Iran, and ties with the United States. He said: Recently the members of the Majles Foreign Policy Committee and I met with the leader of the revolution. His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i stated: You should be aware that there are numerous ways of serving the country and making the revolution prosper. That is the path you should tread; remember that the road that leads toward the United States is a blind alley and you should not pin your hopes on it.

Regarding the analysis of the mass media of the powers of world arrogance, especially with regard to the stance of the fourth Majles on ties with the United States, the Majles speaker stated: In the past few months, the performance of the fourth Majles in resisting the powers of world arrogance, especially the United States, has proved in practice that all their analyses and assessments were fallacious. [passage omitted]

In answer to a question regarding the recent threats by the Zionist prime minister to attack a number of countries in the Persian Gulf region, including Iran, and the Supreme National Security Council's decisions in this regard, Hojjat ol-Eslam val- Moslemin Nateq-Nuri stated: The Supreme National Security Council has discussed this issue and made the necessary decisions.

He was asked another question on the use of foreign brand names on clothing and garments and attempts to instill incorrect ideas among youths. He replied: One of the means used by the West for its cultural invasion is to deface our culture, and this is not done at a stroke. It is a subtle and slow process over a period of time. Therefore, it should be tackled by officials. The university centers should—more than ever before—study ways and means of combating this cultural onslaught, which in the words of the leader of the Islamic revolution is tantamount to the ambush and massacre of our culture.

Larijani Views Rising Islam, West's Intentions

NC1812131892 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 14 Dec 92 pp 1, 16

[Report on a telephone conversation with Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani, Supreme National Security Council adviser and member of the Islamic Majles' Foreign Policy Committee, by an unidentified RESALAT correspondent in Tehran on 14 December]

[Text] Dr. Larijani stated: The cresting of the Islamic movement will soon transform the face of the world in the same manner as the Renaissance changed the face of Europe.

He was asked thus about the West's new wave of anti-Iranian propaganda on human rights and Salman Rushdie and the reaction by 12 EC members and the German Parliament in a renewed display of support for Salman Rushdie: What is the philosophy in reviving these controversies? Larijani answered: It is true that a new wave of political propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran and the revolution has been initiated in the West, on the pretext of human rights, on the issue of Salman Rushdie, and on the Arab-Israel talks to which we are opposed. Iran's defense structure is another pretext. The first question that comes to mind is: What new development has taken place to generate this?

Larijani added: As for human rights, we are a country that has laws and a parliament, a judiciary, and an open system. Compared with other Third World countries and even some developed Western countries, our legislative system is not backward.

The condition of our prisons is far better than that of U.S. and British prisons, according to their own reports. We do not sense anything new, at least not on human rights. We do not accept their principles of human rights. As for Salman Rushdie, this is an Islamic decree on which the entire world of Islam concurs. In all revealed religions, apostates who denigrate prophets sent by God are subject to the same decree. Again, we do not see anything new that has happened recently. As for the Arab-Israeli talks, we are opposed to this regime, which is declared as antihuman in the UN General Assembly. Again, a resolution was passed against it.

As for Iran's defense structure, we are an independent country and we have the right to procure what is necessary to defend our security. We suffered aggression for eight years. We were threatened before that and have been since with serious threats. All around us the area is in ferment and countries in our vicinity have billions of dollars to spend on weaponry. There are extensive foreign forces in the region that are hostile to us and very near our borders. Each of these factors can justify our boosting our defense capability. Our defense budget is negligible compared with the enormous sums being spent on defense in our region.

Naturally, our defense forces should tread a path toward expansion, even though this expansion is not very extraordinary. It is being expanded slowly compared with the demands of the regional situation. So the propaganda against us has roots elsewhere—in the West's way of thinking, which wants to set up a club [preceding word in English] to administer the world. Of course the Americans want to head this club. Although they are plagued by problems, they wish to project themselves as mentors in the Western world, especially among the European countries.

Unfortunately, the United Nations has so far been playing the role of a road sweeper to clear the path for the thinking to which we are opposed.

Larijani added: Our opposition is not worthless or ineffective. The reason for this attitude toward us is that our opposition to this idea of world dominance and needless establishment of an exclusive club to monopolize world affairs has proven to be effective. The Islamic movement has changed into a movement no less than the Renaissance in Europe, which changed the face of Europe and the West. God willing, the new Islamic movements will also change the face of Islam.

Larijani continued: To combat this move against us, we should first maintain our restraint. We are not a willow tree that trembles with every gust of wind. The roots of our government and our power in the world are stronger than such allegations, too strong for us to start shaking at every statement issued against us. The Westerners have been rather naive about the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic revolution. Of course they thought these moves will change our course and this Islamic renaissance will change.

He stated: Not so. Incidentally, these attitudes are very useful for our Majles debates, because we are on the threshold of our Second Five-Year Plan. An important point we must decide in these debates is who our future industrial and economic partners will be; we should select them with great care.

Obviously, one of the main preconditions for the choice of our economic and industrial partners will be that there should be reciprocal trust and respect. If such provocations continue we will certainly revise our views in the Majles on our economic and foreign relations. The Westerners should know that with the blessings of God, we will transform our country into a progressive and flourishing Iran. God willing, with our national determination and abundant resources for international cooperation.

Larijani stressed: The contemporary world does not have the limitations of a bipolar era; it no longer exists. What the Westerners wish to replace it with does not have the makings of a bipolar world or anything else. In my view, our foreign policy should be based on world developments, whether in the technique [preceding word in English] or deductions to be made from these events. It will evolve and we should approach the international situation in a new way to achieve our objectives, God willing.

Our correspondent asked Dr. Larijani: You mentioned the reaction in the Majles to the new wave of Western propaganda. What specific plan does the Majles have for countries with a hostile stance against Iran?

He replied: Just as I mentioned, we do not formulate our thoughts on the basis of opinions or in consultation with others (the West). We did not consult anyone on the trend of our revolution and we did not choose our path on the basis of anyone else's views. We wish to transform our country into a strong, progressive, and prosperous

Islamic country. We have abundant resources and very high-grade manpower. We are endowed with firm determination and we have vast scope for cooperation on the international level, which need not be limited to a few countries. If a few countries feel they have a monopoly, this is a major misconception on their part. They have a very outdated view of the world today. If someone else propounded such a theory after Bismarck, it might not have appeared so strange. In today's world it seems very foolish that a few countries consider themselves the core of the universe.

In our Second Five-Year Plan, in addition to the framework of our path for the next five years, we hope to travel this path toward achieving our main objectives, which will make Iran progressive, God willing. We should pay greater attention to our choice of partners for economic, trade, and industrial relations. These should be those countries with which we can have reciprocal trust. But the possibilities are extensive, so we should consider other countries' attitudes toward us.

We should forge relations with countries and delineate the limits of these relations. Some countries believe that because they sell us a factory or industrial material, they have the right to sell us their philosophy, their religion, and ways. This is a serious error, a very superficial approach. This misunderstanding should be eliminated.

Officials on Bushehr Nuclear Power Station Issue

LD2012204092 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] The news report tonight is on the construction of the half-finished nuclear power station in Bushehr. Please pay attention to the report.

[Correspondent] The construction of an Iranian nuclear power station by Germany has for some time been a topic of discussion in the world's political and economic circles. Learning the views of experts and officials could help a solution of this matter.

In the context of peaceful bilateral cooperation between Iran and Germany, an agreement was signed in 1975, according to which the German Government assumed responsibility for issuing the necessary permits for the export of technology to Iran and the construction of the power station.

When the construction of the Bushehr power station was 85 percent complete, the victory of the Islamic revolution took place in Iran. The German Government then unilaterally stopped work on the construction of the power station. According to the judgment of the International Court, however, Germany was responsible for unconditionally placing the remaining parts at Iran's disposal.

Mr. Hajari, the official in charge of the power stations of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization, has said that the value of this deal was 8.5 billion German marks. Emphasizing the fact that the complex is only for peaceful water and electricity usage, he called on the German Government to take the fundamental actions for the completion of the Bushehr power station. He said:

[Begin Hajari recording] We think that the Bushehr nuclear power station is purely for the production of electricity and has no other purpose. Generally speaking, of course, we shall become familar with nuclear technology, and because it has a peaceful function, no excuse is acceptable for the power station's nonconstruction or the blocking of its construction, which the German Government is doing. Taking into account the present good relations between the two countries, and the fact that there are many agreements on the verge of co .pletion—an indication of the two countries' interest in the expansion of economic cooperation— we think it would be most appropriate for the German Government to pay attention to this project. Regarding the points and obligations which I pointed out earlier, the German Government should help us achieve the product of this great investment, for the permits of which we have been waiting for possibly more than 10 years. God willing, it shall be so. [end recording]

[Correspondent] Mr. Hajari pointed out that Iran signed the nonproliferation treaty banning the military use of nuclear energy 15 years ago and considers itself bound to implement it. We have asked the International Atomic Energy Agency to inspect all Iranian nuclear power stations and installations. He said:

[Begin Hajari recording] We have accepted the inspection of our nuclear installations by this international institute. Therefore we have in fact left the door of our nuclear installations open for these international inspections to take place. [end recording]

In the same context Mr. Musavian, the Iranian ambassador to Germany, in an interview with us, analyzed the arrested process of the German construction of Iran's nuclear power station. He said that the issue has existed since the early days of the Islamic revolution and has purely legal dimensions. He emphasized that the Siemens company thought that Iran had no interest in the construction of the power station, therefore it refrained from continuing its construction. For this reason, he said, we have, on several occasions, appealed to international authorities and have claimed damages for the losses caused as the result of the stoppage. He stated:

[Begin Musavian recording] We think that we have a contract, and also the judgment of the court, on the delivery of the parts, and, according to international laws and regulations, the German Government must issue the permits for the export of the parts to Iran.

In the past two years, in possibly over 200 meetings and discussions at a very high level, the issue has been discussed by the two countries. The issue has not been left aside. Maybe the most important matter that we have pursued is

that of Bushehr. It was recently discussed by Foreign Minister Velayati and the German chancellor. We have asked, and continue to ask, the Germans to deliver the parts and complete the power station. I think the Germans, due to the new situation and international limitations, have obligations to the Western compiex and thus refrain from this obligation to Iran.

We shall have two choices: We can reach a compromise and find a solution satisfactory to both sides, with compensation for the damages caused to us in the past 10-12 years. Or we have to go to court again and the two countries will have to accept the verdict of the court. [end recording]

Official Meets Hamas Group, Condemns Israeli Acts

LD2012112292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] Hoseyn Sheykholeslam, deputy foreign minister for Afro-Arab affairs, met today with representatives from Hamas and the Islamic Jihad Movement. The latest situation in Palestine and the Zionist regime's plots against the Muslim Palestinian people were discussed at the meeting.

Rebuking the Zionist regime's decision regarding the expulsion of the Palestinians from their ancestral home, Sheykholeslam pointed out that such actions are, without doubt, in contravention of international laws and human rights. He added: International forums are expected to put a stop to these bestial and illegal actions of the Zionist regime.

Reiterating the Islamic Republic of Iran's decisive support for the continuation of the just and legitimate struggles of the Palestinian people, Sheykholeslam announced: The land of Palestine can be liberated totally only through the consolidation and continuation of the intifadah.

Russian Prime Minister Sends Message on Ties

LD2012091892 Tehran IRNA in English 0826 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] [no placename as received] Dec. 20, IRNA—The new Russian Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, in a message to the leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, called for promotion of all-out ties between the two countries.

The message was handed over to Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs, Mahmoud Vaezi, by the Russian Ambassador to Iran, Vladimir Gudev, Saturday.

Vaezi voiced Iran's readiness to further consolidate Tehran-Moscow cooperation especially in economic fields.

Agreement on Railway Cooperation With China Signed

LD2012122592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] A memorandum of understanding on railway cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the People's Republic of China has been signed by the two countries' railway officials. According to the memorandum of understanding, the two sides have agreed on the exchange of technical experts, ways of transferring technology, the provision of railway parts for Iranian railways, cooperation in the construction of the Mashhad-Sarakhs railway, and the establishment of new railway lines.

Reasons for U.S. Presence in Somalia Examined

NC1312080492 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 7 Dec 92 pp 1, 12

[Unattributed commentary: "Somalia: The Outlook on the New World Order and Human Rights"]

[Text] Following news reports on the toll of famine victims in Somalia, the United States received a license for its military presence in the Horn of Africa, with the blessings and approbation of the Security Council.

On the basis of Resolution 794, which was approved at the end of last week, the United States is permitted to maintain a military presence to supervise relief operations in war-ravaged Somalia. U.S. troops will be allowed to defend the relief operations.

In fact, with this resolution, the United States will be able to attain multiple objectives in a single stroke such as:

1. Gaining a foothold in Africa, which will:

—reduce Egypt's uneasiness regarding the proliferation of Islamic fundamentalism—while bolstering Mubarak's shaky position at the same time—through the U.S. siege of Sudan;

—surround the Arabs like a pincer (Persian Gulf and Horn of Africa) and extract greater concessions from the Arabs in the Middle East peace talks;

—utilize Somalia's strategic location, especially the facilities at Berbera Port, to support the allied forces in the Persian Gulf and probably Saudi Arabia against Yemen and Qatar;

—incite an atmosphere of instability in the Persian Gulf and sign a security pact, headed by a chosen gendarme [preceding word in English] such as Egypt;

—wrest the traditional base of Europe in Africa (France and England) without any objection.

—project itself as the undisputed power in NATO following the dissolution of the Soviet Union by using the United Nations;

—give the impression that it has made this move to boost the morale of regimes such as those in Tunis, the Maghreb, Ethiopia, and even Algeria in view of the rising wave of Islamism.

2. The United States is capitalizing on the legal role of the United Nations so that:

—through the Security Council's approval, it can compensate for the lack of legitimacy for its military presence, and so that the Yankees [preceding word in English] of yesterday may become the angels of mercy today;

—in view of the UN secretary general's proposal regarding a change in the structure of the United Nations, it will become its virtual leader;

—it can issue its international license for policing the world based on Resolution 687, which permitted it to attack Iraq, and on Resolution 794 regarding its presence in Somalia;

—settle all its outstanding debts to the United Nations for its membership by means of such a license.

3. The United States wants to mitigate pressure from the U.S. public and the world regarding its military presence because:

—it has embarked on a military action to rescue hungry human beings from death;

—it has deployed its forces in the name of human rights and in defense of individual freedoms;

—the cost of its presence will be paid by the hosts, not U.S. taxpayers.

The cost of the Persian Gulf war was paid by the Arabs of the Persian Gulf, and Bush received the medals of honor. Now the expenses for the presence in Somalia will be borne by the United Nations; that is, by all the member countries, even famine-stricken Somalia.

Thus, in light of the above, the United States will merely cut the ribbon of victory. Regarding the Somali scenario, however, there are certain subliminal points which also can be detected concerning future U.S. policy, which are as follows:

1. The policy of defending human rights will be implemented in the future by the United States in tandem with military means, contrary to the policy of the Carter era.

2. The United Nations—with some structural changes—will undergo a change in essence, so that the road between the White House and the Glass House in New York [UN Headquarters] will be smoothed.

3. NATO will be transformed into a consultative club comprised of U.S. political, economic, and military experts.

4. The mass media will move on from the militarists and politicians, right to the "front lines" of U.S. foreign policy, so that first they will fabricate a report and spread astonishment and then portray themselves as angels of mercy.

Against such a backdrop, not one country will be able to consider itself safe. The formulation of a national security strategy for all the countries of the world, especially the independent and progressive countries of the Middle East, will become an imperative need. Yesterday it was Iraq; today Somalia. And tomorrow? Obviously, the United States will not stop here.

Daily Urges Islamic Nations To Dispatch Troops to Bosnia

LD2112102992 Tehran IRNA in English 1014 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 21, IRNA—A Persian daily Monday called on the world of Islam to take appropriate measures to prevent the fall of Bosnia-Hercegovina, something which, it said, was "the explicit and implicit wish of the West and global arrogance."

"JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI" in its editorial said that time was running out for helping the Bosnian defenders and that the Islamic world should enter into action independently and directly and decide about formation of an Islamic Army and dispatch of the necessary weaponry to defend the territorial integrity and independence of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The daily welcomed Friday's resolution passed by the U.N. General Assembly against Serbia but warned the Islamic countries to beware lest the West should take advantage of the situation and show the green light to the Serbs to occupy the capital Sarajevo and put an end to the Bosnian question.

The General Assembly resolution was in fact a protest to the negligence of the Security Council and its procrastination policy and once again proved that the council's resolutions were not responsive to the real stand of the international community on various subjects.

On the role of the U.N. and the so-called peace keeping forces in Bosnia which it said was confined to evacuation of those who could not bear to stay in Sarajevo any longer, the daily said this pseudo humanitarian move can also be regarded as an artful move to strike the last nail in the coffin of Bosnia.

The editorial criticised Britain and Germany for their stands and said the main issue at present was the existence and non-existence of Bosnia in the political geography of Europe. It added that the West explicitly favoured the fall of Bosnia.

Turning to the dual approach of the West toward the Serbs' atrocities in Bosnia, it called on independent and freedom-loving countries, especially the Islamic states, to unveil the nature of the incidents in Bosnia and expose those supporting the criminal Serbs.

Daily Urges Prompt UN Decision on Bosnia

LD2012104592 Tehran IRNA in English 0912 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 20, IRNA—An Iranian daily Sunday commented on the stand taken by the Security Council on the developments in Bosnia-Hercegovina saying that time was running out for the council to find a solution to save its prestige. The English daily TEHRAN TIMES said in its editorial that the Security Council should deliver an ultimatum to the Serbs immediately.

Referring to the January 2 meeting of the Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic with the leader of the Serbs in Bosnia, the daily said that it was utmost injustice to force the leader of a nation that has been subjected to the worst kind of war crimes to appear at a tribunal with the perpetrator of those crimes.

"In fact such a situation represents a gross injustice and the responsibility for this injustice rests with some of the western countries and the United Nations." Criticising the Security Council's stand vis-a-vis the Serbs atrocities and their aggression, the daily said that the members of the council especially the permanent ones would have to answer for the consequences if the council's sanctity was violated by its own irresponsible decisions.

The editorial emphasised that pinning hopes on the efforts of Cyrus Vance and Lord David Owen was "a great mistake" reasoning that "in the past few months they have done nothing other than virtually buying time for the Serbs and allowing them to continue their crimes." It further added that if the European countries were unwilling to send their troops to face the aggressors, the Islamic countries were prepared to send volunteers to stop the war crimes and establish peace in Bosnia.

Welcoming the stand taken by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), it said that the Islamic countries were distrustful of the Security Council's stances. It reiterated that the Islamic countries should take serious actions to end the Serbs atrocities upon the expiray of the January 15 deadline set by the OIC and endorsed by the General Assembly.

"In fact this is the first time the OIC member countries have broken off the seal of silence and are standing up to the unfair and unjustified positions adopted by the Security Council," concluded the daily.

Presidential, Majles Elections Set for Jun 1993

LD2012120292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Today's session of the Guardian Council approved Interior Minister 'Abdollah Nuri-Hoseynabadi's proposal to hold presidential elections and mid-term elections for the fourth term of the Islamic Consultative Majles on 21 Khordad 1372 [11 June 1993]. [passage omitted]

Antiregime Demonstrations Reportedly Increasing

LD1912112692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Antiregime demonstrations in Iran have been on the increase. The Iranian opposition in Paris has stated that these demonstrations have begun to take on other dimensions. Here is a report by colleague Abdelhamid:

Last week witnessed confrontations between people and municipal guards in the district of (Gandafruze), where demonstrators blocked the main highway in the district for three hours and beseiged the regime's forces.

The Iranian opposition in Paris has pointed out that the confrontations took place in the area of Babol between residents there and the regime's forces when the latter tried to demolish some residential buildings.

In (Band-e Bay) municipality in the district of (Gandafruze), the people of the area have declared a sit-in strike in front of municipality headquarters to protest against the confiscation of their agricultural lands by the forces of the Iranian authorities. These authorities thereupon sent reinforcements, but failed to put an end to the campaign of protests. The opposition sources have not yet declared the result of these confrontations.

Khamene'i Addresses Interior Minister, Governors

LD2112121392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Excerpt] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, in a meeting before noon today with the interior minister and the country's governors general, emphasized the importance of populism as a fundamental and exalted principle of the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran and advised the officials to maintain and strengthen their contacts and rapport with the masses.

In the meeting, the eminent leader described implementation of duties and services to the people as the divine duty of the officials. He said: The country's officials are from among the masses and are familiar with them. It would be impossible for the government to achieve any progress in its work in the Islamic system without the people's cooperation and support. Since the core of the arrogant global propaganda against the Islamic Republic

of Iran is aimed at creating a rift between the Muslim Iranian people and the Islamic government, all officials of the system must put their utmost strength and effort into strengthening and bolstering the link between the masses and the government.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i stressed that the masses wanted to see officials who led simple lives and avoided materialism and ostentatious life styles. He said: As long as the masses continue to support and stand by the side of the revolution and the system, the Islamic revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran will remain steadfast in the face of America's new order, the united Europe, the reactionaries of the region, Israel, and even the atomic bomb. The past 14 years' experience of the Islamic revolution is a clear testimony to this irrefutable and certain fact.

Elsewhere in his advice to the country's governors general, the leader of the Islamic revolution said: An official's behavior toward the people must be sympathetic, good mannered, caring and heedful of their wishes. They must eschew anything that may alienate the people from the government.

The eminent leader described false behavior by officials in their visits to towns and districts as the cause of the people's mistrust of the system and the government. He emphasized the need to avoid such behavior.

Concluding his remarks, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i spoke about the heavy responsibility of the governors general in developing national, regional, and provincial projects, and advised them to work hard, utilize expert work forces familiar with historical, geographical, and humanitarian work, maintain constant contact with the masses, refrain from corrupt acts, and adopt an earnest and honest approach dealing with people's requests. [passage omitted]

TEHRAN TIMES on Opening of GCC Summit

LD2112103892 Tehran IRNA in English 1007 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 21, IRNA—Tehran is hopeful that the leaders of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) countries will come out of the 13th PGCC summit, to be opened in Abu Dhabi today, with a message of peace and unity among all the countries of the area, wrote the "TEHRAN TIMES" daily Monday.

The editorial in the English language daily wrote that this meeting is a much more important and critical gathering than the usual ones of the PGCC heads. Because, it added, differences among the member states have escalated to an unprecedented extent in the past few months and in particular the dispute between Qatar and Saudi Arabia is still shrouded in clouds of mystery.

"The greatest mistake on the part of all Persian Gulf littoral states would be to try to intensify differences and disputes among the countries of the Persian Gulf region."

It regretted that the petrodollars of these countries have been used not for the construction of infrastructure and the training of expert manpower or the acquisition of technology, but on waging wars which have been brought about by foreign powers, who have been the real winners in all of the hostilities.

"Clearly the region needs peace and stability at the moment, and Iran is prepared to press warmly friendly hands extended to her for the attainment of this goal."

"The critical state that had been brought about between Iran and the UAE [United Arab Emirates] in the past few months has not yet been entirely settled. And in particular the equivocal stances adopted by the UAE in its relation with Iran has created new problems for the region."

The paper wrote in conclusion that it is "to be hoped that a realistic appreciation of the region's critical state and of the strategic significance of the area, will induce the leaders in the UAE to opt for the strengthening of amicable ties. Tehran is looking forwards to the day when all such minor differences among the countries of the region can be resolved in an atmosphere of understanding and friendship."

Pakistan

Special Court Cancels Bail for 2 Bhutto Aides

BK2012165692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1435 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 20 (AFP)—A special court for the suppression of terrorist activities Sunday canceled the interim bail of two aides of former premier Benazir Bhutto who were then immediately arrested by police, court sources said.

Salman Taseer and Khalid Gurkhi, senior members of Bhutto's Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), were charged with leading a protest demonstration in the Punjab capital Lahore which set out to join Bhutto's abortive November 18 march on Islamabad to force the ouster of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

The two leaders were earlier granted interim bail which the special judge Aslam Shami refused to confirm.

The rejection follows recent promulgation of an ordinance by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan curtailing the jurisdiction of civil courts in cases being tried by special anti-terrorist courts.

The presidential decree amended a law which allowed bail to an accused who had remained in custody for two years while their trials were heard, often a long-delayed process.

Bhutto has said the ordinance was intended to keep her husband Asif Ali Zardari in jail as he has now completed two years behind bars.

Several opposition leaders and lawyers have criticised the ordinance and demanded its immediate withdrawal. The president has reportedly promised to look into the matter.

The deputy leader of the opposition, Farooq Leghari, in a statement Sunday described the ordinance as a "black decree, aimed at terrorising and harrassing the opponents."

The opposition has said it will raise the issue in parliament when it starts its winter session Monday.

Press reports said Bhutto's multi-party Peoples Democratic Alliance (PDA) might boycott the session.

More Troops Offered for Somalia Operations

BK2012133692 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Pakistan has offered an additional 4,000 troops for the UN peacekeeping operations in Somalia; 500 Pakistani troops are already guarding the Somali capital Mogadishu to ensure smooth supply of humanitarian aid to the starving people.

Meanwhile, more enforcements are arriving in the central Somali town of Baidoa following deployment of 700 French and U.S. troops in the town. The troops reached Baidoa to protect food delivery to thousands of starving people.

Spokesman Condemns Expulsion of Palestinians

BK2012142092 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] Pakistan has strongly condemned Israel's inhuman act of expulsion of 418 Palestinians in complete disregard of the relevant United Nations resolution. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that the Security Council Resolution 694 clearly calls on Israel to cease the practice of expulsion and deportation.

The spokesman said Pakistan welcomes the UN Security Council Resolution 799 adopted unanimously on Friday [18 December] last demanding that Israel should ensure the safe and immediate return of all those deported. Reiterating Pakistan's support to the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Lebanon, the spokesman called upon the international community to make Israel realize that such actions do irreparable harm to prospects of peace in the region.

Aircraft Developed With PRC's Help

BK1912111992 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 19 Dec 92 p 14

[Text] Sanjwal (Attock), Dec. 18—Pakistan has successfully developed a jet aircraft, K-8 (Karakorum-8), in collaboration with China, having a maximum speed of 800 kilometres at Pakistan Aeronautical Complex (PAC) Kamra.

The plane besides fulfilling the indigenous needs, would be exported to earn foreign exchange, Minister for Defence Production, Mr. Hazar Bijarani said.

Prototypes of K-8, tested successfully during the last [word indistinct] weeks by the Pakistan Air Force [PAF] and Chinese Air Force told Bijarani who was accompanied by Air Vice Marshal Mohammad Yousaf Kham Director-General PAC Kamra.

The minister said that this aircraft had already attracted some potential buyers like Burma, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Thailand and some Middle Eastern states at the Singapore air display.

These countries, he said, were in contact with the Government of Pakistan about the jet which was mainly for training purposes, with the capability to give support to ground forces during war times.

Bijarani said that a Saudi prince was expected here to witness capability and manoeuverability of the jet.

The PAC Kamra is currently busy in manufacturing six K-8 jet trainers for PAF. The complex authorities are optimistic of getting orders from other countries owing to its compatible price and superior quality compared in other aircraft of its category, which are in demand of a number of countries to check the increasing number of accidents, the minister said.

Regarding the main features of the K-8, the Defence Production Minister said that the jet had a built-in range of 2,250 kilometres with a good field of view and neat cockpit, with an advanced turbo- fan engine to ensure low fuel consumption and cost of maintenance.

Latest navigation and state of the art equipment had been provided in the cockpit, which was the distinction of any aircraft of 1990s, Mr. Hazar Khan Bijarani added.

The PAC Kamra has to its credit the confidence of its buyers in various countries due to its outstanding expertise, efficiency and capabilities in manufacturing and overhauling state-of-art fighter craft. Growing confidence in Kamra is evident from the permission to overhaul the most sophistictated F-16 engine, known as F-100.

The Kamra Complex is also producing light aircraft "Mushak", and providing maintenance support to some 500 such aircraft the world over. It also rebuilds a number of aircraft for Pakistan Air Force and some other countries including F-16s, various versions of French Mirages, Chinese F-7P, T-5 and A-5.

U.S. Terrorist State Declaration Questioned

BK1912154792 Lahore JANG in Urdu 16 Dec 92 p 3

[Editorial: "The Failure of Pakistani Diplomacy?"]

[Text] Last Sunday the prestigious English daily, "THE NEWS", said in a special report that the United States is considering the question of declaring Pakistan a terrorist state. Reacting to this, a senior-most official of the Foreign Office described the aforementioned report or speculation as baseless and asked as to how a country which has been elected as a member of the Security Council with an overwhelming majority of votes at the UN General Assembly can be declared a terrorist state by the United States. He also said that the press should not publish any report having a bearing on national interests without thorough examination and confirmation. The senior official stated with full confidence that the United States is not at all considering the question of declaring Pakistan a terrorist state. But, the latest reports in this regard indicate that the newspaper's report was not mere kite flying. There was definitely something fishy about it.

The Voice of America's Islamabad correspondent, quoting independent sources,—the hint is clear here—has reported that the United States is seriously considering the question of including Pakistan in the list of terrorist states. According to the report, Pakistan's "crime" is that it is providing arms and training to the Kashmiri freedom fighters and that the Pakistani prime minister had promised to stop arms supplies to the Kashmiris, but the promise has not been made good. At present, the United States considers Iraq, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Cuba, and Syria as terrorist states. The country, which is included in this list by Washington, is deprived of all aid and all ongoing projects are stopped; and it becomes binding on the United States to vote against the provision of aid from the international financial institutions to this country.

The reports about the possibility of such a move by the United States on these lines against Pakistan are not surprising and unexpected. For a long time now, the United States has been giving this hint to pressure Pakistan, but the Pakistani authorities continued to think that they had satisfied Washington and that there was no apprehension about a U.S. move on these lines. The statement by a senior official of the Foreign Office the other day reflected the same thinking. But it appears that the above thinking was more reflective of wishful thinking than of the realities. The information about Washington's move to declare Pakistan a terrorist state did not come only from the VOA correspondent; BBC has also quoted a report published by a British daily saying that the United States has informed the Pakistani sources that it is considering placing Pakistan among the ranks of terrorist countries. When the sources in the Pakistani Embassy in Washington were asked to clarify, they said: "We have not received any recent warning in this connection. However, if the U.S. Government does take such a step, it will be only after the Clinton Administration assumes office." According to some other reports, the United States will announce its decision on 31 December when the U.S. president will send to the Congress a list of countries which the United States considers as terrorist. This time, the list will include Pakistan as well.

In view of varying and contrasting reports, it is not possible to determine with certainty the direction to which the U.S. administration is leaning. However, it is obvious and can be presumed that the U.S. Government is hinting at declaring Pakistan a terrorist state in a bid to exert pressure on it. It cannot be said whether a final decision on it has been made or if it will be declared on 31 December, or after Mr. Clinton's assumption of office of the president on 20 January, or whether it is only at the stage of deliberations, and the publication of such reports is only aimed at exerting pressure on Pakistan and forcing it to toe the U.S. line. The reported U.S. decision is apparently based on the fact that "Pakistan is providing arms and training to Kashmiri freedom fighters." However, other reports indicate that the United States also wants to see Pakistan follow the U.S. line on nuclear weapon and Afghan issues. In a bid to exert more pressure on Pakistan, it has also been alleged that the governments of Algeria and Egypt have also said that some of the terrorists in their countries have acknowledged receiving training near Pakistan's Peshawar.

The U.S. campaign against Pakistan is not incomprehensible. It wants Pakistan to act according to the U.S.' desire and priorities in all affairs. Despite knowing and acknowledging the fact that India's nuclear program is more extensive than that of Pakistan and war-oriented, the United States is exerting more pressure on Pakistan. On Afghanistan also, it wants "Pakistan to put all its weight" on Afghan groups which are supported by the United States. The U.S. move obviously reflects its anti-Pakistan attitude and constitutes a pressure on Pakistan. The United States unjustifiably suspended aid to Pakistan for last two years on the plea of Pakistan's peaceful nuclear program. But the allegation of assisting the Kashmiri freedom fighters is so absurd, shaky and baseless that it cannot be considered grounds for taking any punitive step. Instead of taking note of the consistent, massive and shocking violation of human rights in the occupied Kashmir and continuing support to the Kashmiri people's right to self- determination, as it had been doing for years, the United States has put Pakistan in a row of criminals. There is no moral, legal or democratic justification for this U.S. attitude.

Although the aforementioned situation is the outcome of the unjust attitude of the United States, it also exposes the failure of our Foreign Ministry in appropriately fulfilling its duties. Pakistan's case on the Kashmir issue is righteous, weighty, and based on the accepted norms of human rights. But instead of convincing the United States to support us in this regard, we ourselves are being blamed for terrorism. This is a tremendous failure of our foreign policy. The United States has already suspended

aid to our country. In order to save ourselves from further damages, it is necessary for our top-level leadership to realize the seriousness of the danger and apprise the United States of the correct situation on the Kashmir issue and persuade it to support the side which is on the right path. It is said that we have appointed a very capable lady as our ambassador to the United States and she has played an important role in improving the U.S. attitude toward Pakistan. If the claim is right, then we do not understand why the United States is thinking of declaring us a terrorist state on the Kashmir issue. The Pakistani Embassy, the Foreign Ministry and the government should immediately be mobilized and efforts should be made to correct the incorrect thinking of the U.S. government. Aside from incurring a material loss in the event of being declared a terrorist state, we will also lose our global goodwill and we will be forced to adopt a defensive and apologetic posture on every issue. We should take steps to check the emergence of such a situation. Despite the denial by Syeda Abida Hussain, Pakistani Ambassador to the United States, the government should not show indifference in this regard.